

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
23 December 2004 (23.12.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/111774 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G06F**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2004/017641

(22) International Filing Date: 3 June 2004 (03.06.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/476,784 6 June 2003 (06.06.2003) US
10/837,224 30 April 2004 (30.04.2004) US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **EBAY INC.** [US/US]; 2145 Hamilton Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **LIN, Huey.**

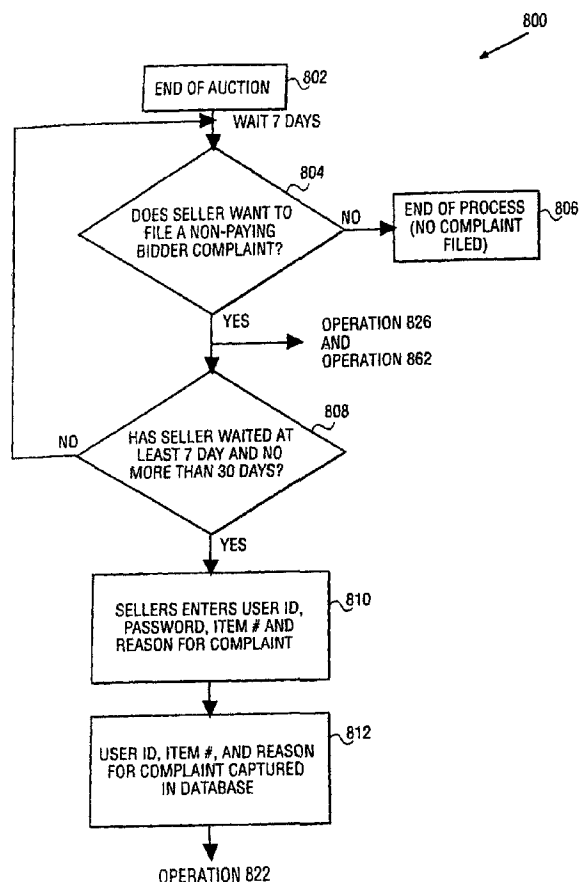
LEVCHIN, Max. HAN, Gina. LEVAN, Ted. LEVY, Dan. MCGRAW, Chris. KLEIN, Erik. CERVELLI, Greg. WO, Steven. FREELAND, Carl. CHEN, May. WILSON, Kristen. NIELSEN, Jason. HAFFEY, Kyle. GONZALES, Julie. APTEKAR, Denise.

(74) Agent: **ELDER, Nathan, P.**; Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman LLP, 12400 Wilshire Boulevard, 7th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90025 (US).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: AUTOMATIC DISPUTE RESOLUTION



(57) Abstract: A method and system for resolving disputes between parties involved in a network-based transaction is described. One aspect of the present invention seeks to automatically facilitate the restitution of value to parties of the transaction, for example, facilitated by a network-based commerce platform or involving a network-based payment service, where a dispute has arisen with respect to the transaction.



(84) **Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

AUTOMATIC DISPUTE RESOLUTION

RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/476,784, filed June 06, 2003, which is incorporated herein by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] The present invention relates generally to the field of commerce automation. More particularly, the present invention relates to a method and system for dealing, at least partially in an automated manner, with disputes between parties involved in electronic commerce.

BACKGROUND

[0003] A common type of a network-based transaction is purchasing goods or services via a network-based commerce facility or trading platform (e.g., a website on the Internet). One type of network-based transaction is an online-auction transaction. In an online-auction transaction, a seller offers an item for sale via an auction website in which a number of bidders access the website and bid for the item. A transaction is completed after the winning bidder pays for the item and the seller delivers the item to the winning bidder.

[0004] A common type of a network-based transaction is purchasing goods or services via a network-based commerce facility or trading platform (e.g., a website on the Internet). One type of network-based transaction is an online-auction transaction. In an online-auction transaction, a seller offers an item for sale via an auction website in which a number of bidders access the website and bid for the item. A transaction is completed after the winning bidder pays for the item and the seller delivers the item to the winning bidder.

[0005] A number of technical challenges exist with such a transaction such as a party to the transaction failing to follow through with the transaction. For example, the winning bidder may falsely claim that the seller did not deliver the auctioned item, fail to pay for the auctioned item, or provide a fraudulent check to purchase the item. In such a case, the bidder is referred to as a "non-paying bidder." As a result of a failed

transaction, the seller may request a refund for a fee that may have been charged by the network-based transaction facility to facilitate the transaction.

[0006] Another problem that may occur is a seller falsely claiming the auctioned item was shipped or that a transaction did not go through, to obtain a refund when in fact a valid sale occurred.

[0007] The conventional dangers of fraud and identity theft associated with network-based transactions are well known and present unique technical challenges to overcome in a quick and efficient manner. Thus, there is a need for dealing with disputes between parties involved in a network-based transaction. The automation of procedures to handle issues and disputes presents a number of unique technical problems and challenges.

SUMMARY OF AN EMBODIMENT OF THE INVENTION

[0008] A method and system for resolving disputes between parties involved in a network-based transaction is described. One aspect of the present invention seeks to automatically facilitate the restitution of value to parties of the transaction, for example, facilitated by a network-based commerce platform or involving a network-based payment service, where a dispute has arisen with respect to the transaction.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] The present invention is illustrated by way of example and not intended to be limited by the figures of the accompanying drawings in which like references indicate similar elements and in which:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary network-based transaction facility in the form of an Internet-based auction facility;

FIG. 2 is a database diagram illustrating an exemplary database for the transaction facility;

FIG. 3 is a diagrammatic representation of an exemplary non-paying bidder items table of the database illustrated in FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a diagrammatic representation of an exemplary non-paying bidders table of the database illustrated in FIG. 2;

FIG. 5 is a diagrammatic representation of an exemplary sellers complaint table of the database illustrated in FIG. 2;

FIG. 6 is a diagrammatic representation of an exemplary sellers final value fee

request table of the database illustrated in FIG. 2;

FIG. 7 is a diagrammatic representation of an exemplary non-paying bidder appeal table of the database illustrated in FIG. 2;

FIGS. 8A through 8D are flow charts illustrating an exemplary operation for a network-based facility to handle non-paying bidders and to handle final value fee refund requests;

FIG. 9 illustrates exemplary interfaces providing information about a non-paying bidder program;

FIGS. 10A and 10B illustrate exemplary interfaces for entering a non-paying bidder alert or complaint form;

FIG. 10C illustrates an exemplary interface indicating that a non-paying bidder alert or complaint form has been filed;

FIGS. 11A through 11C illustrate exemplary interfaces for entering a final value fee credit request form;

FIG. 12 illustrates an exemplary interface for entering a non-paying bidder appeal;

FIG. 13 illustrates an exemplary interface for providing a non-paying bidder appeal confirmation;

FIG. 14 illustrates an exemplary interface for providing a transaction backout profile;

FIG. 15 is a diagrammatic representation of an exemplary disputes and requests table;

FIG. 16 is a flow chart illustrating an exemplary operation for a network-based facility to resolve disputes without agent intervention;

FIG. 17 illustrates one embodiment of a transaction disputes view;

FIG. 18 illustrates one embodiment of a chargeback details view;

FIG. 19 illustrates one embodiment of a resolution form;

FIG. 20 illustrates one embodiment of a provide proof of refund view;

FIG. 21 illustrates one embodiment of a get refund transaction ID view;

FIG. 22 illustrates one embodiment of a get alternative refund information view;

FIG. 23 illustrates one embodiment of a provide shipping tracking information view;

FIG. 24 illustrates one embodiment of an accept liability view;

FIG. 25 illustrates one embodiment of a NAD process flow in relation to the NAD type complaint;

FIG. 26 illustrates one embodiment of a NAD dispute form;

FIG. 27 illustrates one embodiment of a Dispute Complaint Response form;

FIG. 28 illustrates one embodiment of the Partial Refund Offer Form;

FIG. 29 illustrates a Disagree with Complaint Form; and

FIG. 30 is a diagrammatic representation of a machine, in an exemplary form of a computer system, in which a set of instructions for causing the machine to perform any of the methodologies of the present invention may be executed.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0010] A method and system for resolving disputes between parties involved in electronic commerce is described. One aspect of the present invention seeks to facilitate the restitution of value to parties of a transaction, for example, facilitated by a network-based commerce platform or involving a network-based payment service, where a dispute has arisen with respect to the transaction. It will be appreciated that when an agreement is reached between parties to transact, that agreement imposes reciprocal obligations on each of the relevant parties. Where a dispute arises, one party may have performed an action to at least partially satisfy his or her obligations. For example, a buyer party to a transaction may have made payment to a seller party, where after the seller party has failed to perform by not delivering a transacted product or service to the buyer. Alternatively, a seller party may have shipped a product, or at least partially performed a service, to the benefit of the buyer party when a dispute arises and the buyer party fails to make a payment to the seller party.

[0011] According to one aspect, the present invention attempts to reduce abuse by parties failing to follow through with a transaction, for example, by automatically providing a party accused of failing to follow through in a transaction an opportunity to resolve or complete the transaction without (or at least with reduced) human interaction by operators of the network-based transaction facility. For one embodiment, a submission of a complaint is submitted to a network-based transaction facility. The complaint is related to a party in a failed transaction. A resolution of the complaint is facilitated and restitution is provided to one of the parties upon resolving the complaint.

[0012] In the following embodiments, for purposes of explanation, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the present invention. It will be evident, however, to one skilled in the art that the present invention may be practiced without these specific details.

Terminology

[0013] In the following embodiments, the term "transaction" or "transactions" refers to any communications between two or more entities and is to be construed to include, but not limited to, commercial transactions including sale and purchase transactions, online-auction transactions and other like transactions.

Transaction Facility

[0014] FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustration of an exemplary network-based transaction (or commerce) facility 100 in the form of an "Internet" network-based transaction facility 110. While an exemplary embodiment of the present invention is described within the context of an auction facility, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the invention will find application in many different types of computer-based, network-based, or electronic-commerce (e-commerce) based facilities.

[0015] The network-based transaction facility 110 includes one or more of a number of types of front-end servers, namely a pages servers 112 that delivers web pages (e.g., markup language documents), a pictures servers 114 that dynamically delivers images to be displayed within Web pages, a listing servers 116, a CGI servers 118 that provides an intelligent interface to the back-end of network-based transaction facility 110, and a search servers 120 that handles search requests to the network-based transaction facility 110. An email servers 121 provides, inter alia, automated email communications to users of the network-based transaction facility 110. The network-based transaction facility 110 also includes an administrative application(s) functions 128 for providing functions for applications running the network-based transaction facility 110.

[0016] The back-end servers include a database engine server 122, a search index server 124 and a credit card data server 126, each of which maintains and facilitates access to respective databases 123, 125, 127, respectively.

[0017] The Internet-based network-based transaction facility 110 may be accessed by a client program 130, such as a browser (e.g., the Internet Explorer[®] distributed by Microsoft Corp. of Redmond, Washington) that executes on a client machine 132 and accesses the network-based transaction facility 110 via a network such as, for example,

an Internet 134. Other examples of networks that a client may utilize to access the network-based transaction facility 110 include a wide area network (WAN), a local area network (LAN), a wireless network (e.g., a cellular network), or the Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) network.

Database Structure

[0018] FIG. 2 is a database diagram illustration of an exemplary database 200, maintained by and accessed via a database engine server 122, which at least partially implements and supports the network-based transaction facility 110. The database 200 may, in one embodiment, be implemented as a relational database and includes a number of tables having entries, or records, that are linked by indices and keys. In an alternative embodiment, database 200 may be implemented as a collection of objects in an object-oriented database.

[0019] Central to the database 200 is a user table 240, which contains a record for each user of the network-based transaction facility 110. A user may operate as a seller, buyer, or both, within the network-based transaction facility 110. The database 200 also includes an items tables 242 that may be linked to the user table 240. Specifically, the items tables 242 include a seller item table 244 and a data items table 246. A user record in user table 240 may be linked to multiple items that are being, or have been, auctioned via network-based transaction facility 110. A link indicates whether the user is a seller or a bidder (or buyer) with respect to items for which records exist within the item tables 242. Database 200 also includes a note table 248 populated with note records that may be linked to one or more item records within the item tables 242 and/or to one or more user records within the user table 240. Each note record within the note table 248 may include, inter alia, a comment, description, history or other information pertaining to an item being auctioned via network-based transaction facility 110, or to a user of network-based transaction facility 110.

[0020] A number of other tables are also shown to be linked (directly or indirectly) to the user table 240, namely a user past aliases table 250, a feedback table 252, a feedback details table 253, a transaction record table 260, an account balances table 258, an accounts table 256, a bids table 254, a seller final value fee request table 270, a seller final value fee request details table 272, a non-paying bidder complaints table 262, a non-paying bidder complaint details table 264, and a dispute and request table 282.

Non-Paying Bidder Complaint/Final Value Fee Request Record Tables

[0021] FIGS. 3-8 are diagrammatic representations of exemplary embodiments of transaction record tables that are populated with records or entries for non-performing party complaints and final value fee requests relating to failed transactions (e.g., failed Internet based auction transactions) that have been facilitated by network-based transaction facility 110. Such transaction record tables may be stored in the non-paying bidder complaints table 262, the non-paying bidder complaint details table 264, the seller final value fee request table 270, or the seller final value fee request details 272.

[0022] FIG. 3 is a diagrammatic representation of an exemplary non-paying bidder items table 300 of the database illustrated in FIG. 2. Referring to FIG. 3, non-paying bidder (NPB) items table 300 includes an item no. column 302, a seller user ID column 304, a NPB user ID column 306, a reason for failed transaction column 308, a notice date column 310, and a notice reason column 312.

[0023] The item no. column 302 stores item identifiers of items involved in failed transactions. The seller user ID column 304 stores user IDs of sellers who auctioned the item in item no. column 302. The NPB user ID column 306 stores user IDs of buyers who did not follow through on a transaction related to the items identified in the item no. column 302. The reason for failed transaction column 308 stores reasons why the transaction failed that may be given by a seller. For example, reasons may include a buyer failing to purchase an item or providing a fraudulent check to pay for the item.

[0024] The notice date column 310 stores the date a notice was sent to the respective buyer identified in the NPB user ID column 306 that he/she has not completed the transaction for the item identified in the respective item no. column 302. The notice reason column 312 stores the reasons why the notice was sent. For example, the notice can be sent because a seller filed a final value fee refund request or the seller filed a NPB alert against the buyer.

[0025] FIG. 4 is a diagrammatic representation of an exemplary non-paying bidders table 400 of the database illustrated in FIG. 2. Referring to FIG. 4, the non-paying bidders table 400 includes a NPB user ID column 402, an item no. column 404, a valid warning count column 406, a NPB tick column 408, a reason for NPB tick column 410, and a suspended status column 412.

[0026] The NPB user ID column 402 stores the user IDs of buyers in which a complaint has been filed. The buyers listed in the NPB user ID column 402 are buyers involved in failed transactions. The item no. column 404 stores identifiers of items

involved in transactions in which the buyer listed in the NPB user ID column 402 was the winning bidder and has failed to complete the transaction for the item.

[0027] The valid warning count column 406 stores a count value on the number of times the NPB received a warning for being a "non-paying bidder" or for failing to complete a transaction. The NPB tick column 408 stores the number of times the NPB has been involved in a failed transaction in which the NPB was at fault. The reason for NPB tick column 410 stores the reasons for the NPB ticks. The suspended status column 412 stores the status of the NPB to participate on the network-facility. For example, after a certain number of NPB ticks, the NPB can be suspended from participating in an on-line auction on the network-based facility.

[0028] FIG. 5 is a diagrammatic representation of an exemplary sellers complaint table 500 of the database illustrated in FIG. 2. Referring to FIG. 5, the sellers complaint table 500 includes a seller user ID column 502, a NPB user ID column 504, a date of complaint column 506, a reason for complaint column 508, and a status of complaint column 510.

[0029] The seller user ID column 502 stores the user IDs of sellers filing NPB complaints. The NPB user ID column 504 stores user IDs of buyers against which a NPB complaint has been filed. The date of complaint column 506 stores the date in which the NPB complaint was filed. The reason for complaint column 508 stores the reasons why the seller filed the NPB complaint. The status of complaint column 510 stores the status of the complaint. For example, the status can indicate that the complaint has been resolved or if it is pending.

[0030] FIG. 6 is a diagrammatic representation of an exemplary sellers final value fee (FVF) request table 600 of the database illustrated in FIG. 2. Referring to FIG. 6, the sellers FVF request table 600 includes a sellers user ID column 602, a NPB user ID column 604, an item no. column 606, an action desired column 608, a reason for FVF credit column 610, a credit date column 612, and a credit amount column 614.

[0031] The sellers user ID column 602 stores the user IDs of sellers filing a FVF refund request. The NPB user ID column 604 stores the user IDs of the NPB related to the FVF refund request by the seller. The item no. column 606 stores an identifier of the item related to the FVF refund request. The action desired column 608 stores the requests of the seller. The seller may request a refund or a credit for future transactions.

[0032] The reason for FVF credit column 610 stores the reason for the credit. For one embodiment, the following reasons are not valid reasons for filing a FVF credit: (1) the bidder paid, returned it and seller issued a refund; (2) Seller and Buyer mutually agreed not to complete the transaction; or (3) sale price to high bidder was lower than final high bid. The credit date column 612 stores the date in which a refund or a credit for future transactions was given. The credit amount column 614 stores the amount of the credit or refund given.

[0033] FIG. 7 is a diagrammatic representation of an exemplary non-paying bidder appeal table 700 of the database illustrated in FIG. 2. Referring to FIG. 7, the NPB table 700 includes an item no. column 702, seller user ID column 704, NPB user ID column 706, reason for failed transaction column 708, reason for appeal column 710, and an appeal code column 712.

[0034] The item no. column 702 stores item identifiers related to failed transactions. The failed transaction has caused an NPB to have a "tick" or count against him in which the NPB is considered at fault. The seller user ID column 704 stores user IDs of sellers who auctioned the item in the item no. column 702 and filed a NPB complaint or alert against the NPB. The NPB user ID column 706 stores user IDs of buyers who did not follow through on a transaction related to the items identified in the item no. column 702.

[0035] The 'reasons for failed transaction' column 708 stores reasons why the transaction failed. For example, reasons may include a buyer failing to pay for an item, providing a fraudulent check to pay for the item, or falsely claiming the auctioned item was not received. The reason for appeal column 710 stores reasons why the NPB is appealing a NPB tick. A valid reason for appeal can be that the NPB did pay for the item and the seller is providing a false complaint to obtain a FVF refund or credit. The appeal code column 712 stores codes related to the appeal. For example, the codes can indicate if the appeal is granted and the NPB tick is taken away or if the appeal is denied.

[0036] The above record tables are exemplary and additional column entries or tables can be used by network-based transaction facility 110 to provide services such that users of network-based transaction facility 110 may file complaints for a bidder or buyer ("non-paying bidder") who has failed to follow through on a transaction (e.g., an online auction sale). Furthermore, the network facility 100 can also provide a final value fee (FVF) refund request or credit service for sellers involved in a failed transaction. The

network-based transaction facility 110 can also keep track of NPB and suspend the NPB if involved in more than a certain number of failed transactions.

[0037] In the following operations, a party is able to file a complaint against a bidder ("non-paying bidder") who has failed to follow through on a transaction (e.g., an auction sale) after a certain period of time from the end of the sale. A notification is provided to the non-paying bidder ("NPB") so that the seller and a bidder can communicate with each other to resolve the complaint or complete the transaction. If the parties cannot resolve the complaint after a certain period of time, the seller is allowed to file a FVF refund request for the FVF that the seller may have paid to facilitate the sale on the network-based facility. A NPB count or "tick" will be maintained for every failed transaction in which the NPB is involved.

Filing a Non-Paying Bidder Alert or Complaint

[0038] FIGS. 8A through 8D are flow charts illustrating an exemplary operation 800 for a network-based facility to handle non-paying bidders and to handle final value fee refund requests. The following exemplary operation 800 utilizes the record tables of FIGS. 3-7 and other information contained in the database as shown in FIG. 2.

[0039] Referring to FIG. 8A, for purposes of explanation, operation 800 begins at operation 802 after an end of an auction. At operation 804, a seller who was involved in a failed transaction with a buyer can file a non-paying bidder (NPB) complaint or alert. For one embodiment, the seller, however, must wait a predetermined time period (e.g., the at least 7 calendar days) before a complaint can be filed. To learn about the NPB program, the seller can access an interface such as interface 902 shown in FIG. 9 to learn more about the NPB program.

[0040] At operation 806, if the seller does not wish to file a complaint or alert, operation 800 ends. If the seller does wish to file a complaint, operation 800 can continue to operation 826, 862, or 808. At operation 808, a determination is made if the seller has waited at least 7 days and no more than 30 days. The waiting period is to give the bidder an opportunity to complete the transaction before the seller can file a complaint or request a final value fee refund or request.

[0041] If the seller has not waited at least 7 days and no more than 30 days, operation 800 returns to operation 804. If after the 7 day waiting period, but before 30 days after end of auction, at operation 810, the seller may file a NPB complaint. For example, interfaces such as interfaces 1002 and 1010, as shown in FIGS. 10A and 10B, can be

presented to the seller. The seller can then enter information such as User ID, Password, and Item Number as shown in windows 1004 and 1006. The seller can also enter reasons for the complaint as shown in window 1010.

[0042] At operation 812, the information entered by the seller is captured or stored in a database such as that shown in FIG. 2. An interface such as interface 1030 shown in FIG. 10C can be presented to the seller indicating that NPB complaint or alert has been completed. Operation 800 then continues to operation 822 in FIG. 8B.

[0043] Referring to FIG. 8B, at operation 822 a determination is made if the reasons for the complaint are at least one of the following:

- 1) Bidder paid, returned item and seller issued a refund;
- 2) The parties mutually agreed not to complete the transaction; or
- 3) Sale price too high and bidder bid price was lower than final high bid.

[0044] If the reasons for the complaint are at least one of the above reasons, operation 800 continues at operation 842 in FIG. 8C. If not, operation 800 continues to operation 824.

[0045] At operation 824, an email is sent to both bidder/buyer and seller informing the parties of the reason for complaint, item number, and that the bidder will get a NPB tick if the complaint is not resolved. The buyer is informed that the seller has filed a complaint. If the buyer believes the seller has made false statements, the buyer can inform the network-based transaction facility 110. For example, the buyer can send an email to a "safeharbor" within the network-based transaction facility 110.

[0046] At operation 826, the buyer and seller are asked to resolve differences among themselves. This notification can be a separate email or contained in the email of operation 824. For one implementation, the email to the NPB can encourage the buyer to leave negative feedback for the seller if the buyer responded during the mediation period and the seller did not respond and is now filing a FVF credit request.

[0047] At operation 828, a determination is made if the buyer and seller have resolved their differences (e.g., completed the transaction and/or satisfied obligations imposed by a transaction agreement). If the parties have not resolved their differences, operation 800 continues to operation 862 in FIG. 8D. If the parties have resolved their differences, at operation 830 the process ends. The seller cannot file a FVF refund

request because the transaction has been completed and no FVF credit is given.

Furthermore, the buyer is not given a NPB tick.

Filing a Final Value Fee Refund Request

[0048] Referring to FIG. 8C, if the reason for filing the complaint is one of the reasons stated in operation 822 of FIG. 8B, operation 800 continues to operation 842. At operation 842, the seller is taken to an FVF online credit form such as that shown in interfaces 1102, 1108, or 1120 of FIGS. 11A through 11C. For one implementation, the seller is not allowed to file a FVF credit until at least 10 days have passed since the seller filed the NPB complaint. Furthermore, the FVF credit request cannot be made more than 60 days after the end of auction.

[0049] At this point, the seller can request a FVF refund or credit because a transaction was not completed for valid reasons. At operation 844, a determination is made whether the seller wants to file a FVF refund or credit request. At operation 846, if the seller does not wish to file a FVF credit request, the seller can leave interfaces 1102, 1108, or 1120 and the process ends. If, however, the seller does wish to file a FVF credit request, operation 800 continues to operation 848.

[0050] At operation 848, the seller's user ID, item number, and reasons for complaint can be auto-populated on the online form. Alternatively, the seller can enter the aforementioned information as shown in windows 1104 and 1106 in FIG. 11A. The seller can then enter his/her password and how much was paid for the item in windows 1104 and 1110, 1122, and 1124 as shown in FIGS. 11A through 11C.

[0051] At operation 850, the FVF credit is automatically posted to seller's account. The buyer is not given a NPB tick because there was a valid reason on why the transaction was not completed. At operation 852, an email is sent to the buyer (cc: Seller) to inform the buyer that the seller has requested a FVF credit for the reasons given. The buyer is asked to email the "safeharbor" if this is not valid. For example, if the buyer did complete the transaction, then the seller is fraudulently requesting a FVF refund.

[0052] At operation 854, a determination is made if the buyer has sent an email to the "safeharbor." If an email was not sent, at operation 856, the process ends and the seller is given a FVF credit. If the buyer does send an email to the "safeharbor", at operation 858, the seller is not given a FVF credit and the process ends. Here, a further

determination can be made by the network facility to inquire about the validity of the buyer's and seller's statements.

Filing a Non-Paying Bidder Appeal

[0053] Referring to FIG. 8D, at operation 862, a determination is made if a NPB complaint has been filed and if a predetermined time period (e.g., 10 days) has elapsed since the NPB complaint was filed. If the complaint has been filed and if 10 days have not elapsed, operation 800 continues to operation 826. Otherwise, operation 800 continues to operation 808.

[0054] If a NPB complaint has been filed and 10 days or more have elapsed, operation 800 continues to operation 864. At operation 864, a determination is made if less than a predetermined time period (e.g., 60 days) has elapsed since the end of the auction. If more than 60 days have elapsed, at operation 866, operation 800 ends and no FVF credit request is filed. Here, approximately two months have passed since the auction, which exceeds a maximum time limit to file a FVF credit request.

[0055] If less than 60 days have elapsed since the end of the auction, at operation 868, a determination is made if the seller wants to file a FVF credit request. If the seller does not want to file a FVF credit request, operation 800 ends at operation 866. If the seller does want to file a FVF credit request, at operation 870, the seller is taken to the FVF online credit form such as that shown in interfaces 1102, 1108, or 1120 of FIGS. 11A through 11C. For one embodiment, the user ID, item no., and reason for the complaint are autopopulated on the FVF online form.

[0056] At operation 872, after the seller completes the FVF online form, the FVF credit is automatically posted to the seller's account and a NPB tick is given to the NPB. For example, the seller's account can be credited within 24 hours of a FVF credit request being filed. The NPB is notified via email that a tick has been given and is given the opportunity to appeal the tick.

[0057] At operation 874, a determination is made if the NPB wants to appeal the tick. If the NPB does not want to appeal the tick, operation 800 continues to operation 830. If the NPB does want to appeal the tick, the NPB is taken to an online NPB appeal form such as interface 1202 shown in FIG. 12.

[0058] At interface 1202, the NPB is given a window 1204 to enter a user ID and password and a window 1206 to enter the item number. Interface 1202 also provides a window 1208 for the NPB to enter a message on why the tick should not be given to him.

After the NPB completes the NPB appeal form, the network-based facility can give the NPB a confirmation such as interface 1302 shown in FIG. 13. Furthermore, the seller and NPB can access an interface 1402 shown in FIG. 14 to determine number of credit requests and NPB tick scores for users.

[0059] For one embodiment, the NPB is given a maximum number of ticks (e.g., 3 ticks) before the NPB is suspended from participating in online auctions. If the NPB tick goes from 3 to 2, the NPB can be reinstated. If the FVF credit for the seller is reversed, the NPB tick can later be reversed and the tick can be removed. For another embodiment, the NPB must receive at least three NPB ticks from three different sellers before that bidder is automatically suspended. If, for example, a bidder receives three NPB ticks from Seller A and one NPB tick from Seller B, the bidder should not be automatically suspended (NPB tick score = 2). However, the bidder should be flagged so that the operator of the network-based transaction facility may manually review the bidder and have the ability to suspend the bidder.

Submission of Complaints Between Parties

[0060] Figure 15 is a diagrammatic representation of an exemplary embodiment of a transaction record table that is populated with records or entries for disputes and requests. Such a transaction record table may be stored in the disputes and requests table 282 of Figure 2.

[0061] Figure 15 is a diagrammatic representation of an exemplary disputes and requests table 1500 of the database illustrated in Figure 2. For example, the dispute and requests table may store information relating a dispute caused by failed transactions.

[0062] Referring to Figure 15, the disputes and requests table 1500 includes a type column 1505, a counterparty column 1510, a transaction identifier column 1515, a date column 1520, an amount column 1525, a reason column 1530, a filed on column 1535, a status column 1540, and an action column 1545.

[0063] The type column 1505 stores the type of dispute. The counterparty column 1510 stores a name of a counter party to the dispute. The transaction identifier column 1515 stores an identifier of the transaction record that is in dispute. The date column 1520 stores the date of the transaction in dispute. The amount column 1525 stores an amount of the transaction in dispute. The reason column 1530 stores a reason for the dispute. Examples of entries to be stored in the reason column 1530 include unauthorized, non-receipt, merchandise, duplicate, or other.

[0064] The filed on column 1535 stores the date the dispute was filed. The status column 1540 stores an indicator of the status of the dispute. For example, the entry stored in the status column 1540 may include “case closed,” “waiting for your response,” (which indicates when the dispute is waiting for a response from the accused party), and “reviewing your response,” (which indicates when the dispute is in a review workflow state). The action column 1545 stores an indication of an action to be performed by one of the parties to the transaction, such as “resolved” or “cancel.”

[0065] Figure 16 is a flow chart illustrating an exemplary dispute resolution process flow 1600 for a network-based facility to resolve disputes without agent intervention. The following exemplary operation may utilize the record table of Figure 15 and other information contained in the database as shown in Figure 2.

[0066] Referring to Figure 16, for purposes of explanation, the dispute resolution process flow 1600 begins at block 1601 after an end of an auction.

[0067] At block 1601, the network-based transaction facility 110 receives a complaint from a party (e.g., a complaining party) to a transaction. For example, the network-based transaction facility 110 may receive a complaint from a buyer related to a transaction in dispute between the buyer and seller. For instance, the buyer may submit a complaint regarding a purchased item that has not been received from a seller related to the transaction.

[0068] In one embodiment, the complaint includes complaint information. The complaint information may include an identifier of the counter party (e.g., an accused party) to the dispute, the transaction identifier of the transaction in dispute, the date of the transaction, the amount of the transaction, the reason for the complaint, and the date the complaint was filed. The complaint information may be stored in the open dispute and request table 1500 as described above.

[0069] Upon submitting the complaint, the complaining party may view the complaint via the network-based transaction facility 110. For example, Figure 17 illustrates one embodiment of a transaction disputes view 1700. The transaction disputes view 1700 includes a show list box 1710 and a disputes table 1715. The show list box 1710 toggles the types of transactions to be displayed in the disputes view 1700.

[0070] The disputes table 1715 includes a type column 1720, a counterparty column 1725, a transaction ID column 1730, a date column 1735, an amount column 1740, a

reason column 1745, a filed on column 1750, a status column 1755, and an action column 1760.

[0071] The type column 1720 displays the type of dispute. The counterparty column 1725 displays an identifier of the counterparty to the dispute. The transaction ID column 1730 displays an identifier of the transaction in dispute. In one embodiment, upon selecting a specific transaction ID, the user is shown additional details relating to the transaction in dispute.

[0072] The date column 1735 displays the date of the transaction in dispute. The amount column 1740 displays the amount in dispute. The reason column 1745 displays a brief reason for the complaint. The filed on column 1750 displays the date the complaint was received by the network-based transaction facility 110. The status column 1755 displays the current status of the complaint. In one embodiment, upon selecting a specific status indicator, the user is shown a chargeback details view relating to the complaint. For example, Figure 18 illustrates one embodiment of a chargeback details view 1800. The action column 1760 displays an action that may be performed by the party that submitted the complaint. For example, the complaining party may select to cancel a complaint of a specific transaction in dispute. The complaining party may cancel a submitted complaint for a variety of reasons, such as, having received the auctioned item, having received a refund or receiving a payment, for the item, among other reasons. Upon expressing an interest to cancel the complaint, the network-based transaction facility 110 may also prompt the complaining party to acknowledge that the related complaint has been satisfactorily resolved and the network-based transaction facility 110 may express to the complaining party that further investigation will cease and the status of the complaint will be set to “closed” immediately.

[0073] At block 1603, the network-based transaction facility 110 determines whether the complaint is a ‘Not As Described’ (NAD) type complaint. In one embodiment, a NAD complaint indicates the buyer has received a purchased item that was not as described, for example, in an online listing for the item. If the complaint is a NAD type complaint, control passes to block 2503. If the complaint is not a NAD type complaint, control passes to block 1605.

[0074] At block 1605, the network-based transaction facility 110 determines whether the complaint includes tracking information for the shipped item. If the complaint

includes tracking information, control passes to block 1650. If the complaint does not include tracking information, control passes to block 1607.

[0075] At block 1607, the network-based transaction facility 110 sends a request for resolution information, in the exemplary form of a resolution form, over the network to a second party to the transaction. The automatic submission of the resolution form allows an accused party to answer or appeal the submitted complaint. For example, Figure 19 illustrates one embodiment of a resolution form 1900. The resolution form 1900 includes radio buttons which the accused party may select from to resolve the dispute. Radio button 1910 indicates the accused party may provide tracking information relating to the dispute. Radio button 1920 indicates the accused party may provide proof of previous refund. Radio button 1930 indicates the accused party accepts liability. Upon selecting one of the radio buttons 1910, 1920, or 1930, the accused party may select the continue button 1940 to submit a resolution response back to the network-based transaction facility 110. Alternatively, the party may select the cancel button 1945 to not submit a resolution response.

[0076] At block 1610, the network-based transaction facility 110 receives the requested resolution information (or response) over the network from the accused party.

[0077] At block 1612, the network-based transaction facility 110 determines whether the accused party selects to resolve the dispute by providing proof of a refund. If the proof of refund was indicated, control passes to block 1615. If the proof of refund was not indicated, control passes to block 1640.

[0078] At block 1615, the network-based transaction facility 110 sends a request for proof of the refund to the accused party. For example, Figure 20 illustrates one embodiment of a provide proof of refund view 2000. The provide proof of refund view 2000 includes a radio button 2010 and a radio button 2020. Selecting the radio button 2010 and the continue button 2030 indicates the refund was issued via the network-based transaction facility 110 whereby the network-based transaction facility 110 submits a request for a refund transaction identifier for display by the accused party. For example, Figure 21 illustrates one embodiment of a provide proof of refund view 2100. The provide proof of refund view 2100 includes a refund transaction ID field 2110. The refund transaction ID field 2110 prompts the accused party to provide the transaction identifier associated with the refund.

[0079] Referring again to Figure 20, selecting the radio button 2020 and the continue button 2030 indicates the refund was issued via a facility other than the network-based transaction facility 110, whereby a request for an alternative means of proof of refund is requested from the accused party. For example, Figure 22 illustrates one embodiment of a provide alternate proof of refund information view 2200 that prompts the accused party to provide any details of the refund transaction, such as the name of the financial institution that provided the funds, an account name of the account from which the funds were obtained, a refund transaction identifier, etc. This information may be provided via a web form (not shown), via fax, via electronic mail (including an attached electronically scanned document), among other examples well known to those of ordinary skill in the art.

[0080] At block 1617, the network-based transaction facility 110 receives the proof of refund information.

[0081] At block 1623, the network-based transaction facility 110 confirms the proof of refund. For example, the network-based transaction facility 110 may confirm a refund issued via the network-based transaction facility 110 is valid by comparing the received proof of refund information with the records stored on the network-based transaction facility 110. Also, if the refund was issued with a facility other than the network-based transaction facility 110, the network-based transaction facility 110 may automatically or manually validate the refund information with a third party, such as a third party financial institution. If the refund is validated, control passes to block 1635. If the refund is not validated, control passes to block 1626.

[0082] At block 1626, the network-based transaction facility 110 approves the complaint. For example, the network-based transaction facility 110 may determine the complaint is valid and rejects the accused contention that a refund was made.

[0083] At block 1629, the network-based transaction facility 110 provides restitution to the complaining party. For example, the network-based transaction facility 110 may facilitate a refund payment, facilitate a partial refund payment, facilitate a stop payment, or facilitate the completion of the transaction (e.g., facilitate performance, such as facilitate payment or facilitate the delivery of the auctioned item), etc. For instance, the network-based transaction facility 110 may facilitate the transfer of funds from an account associated with the accused party to provide restitution to the complaining party.

[0084] At block 1632, the network-based transaction facility 110 notifies the parties of the decision. For example, the network-based transaction facility 110 may email both parties of the decision in favor of the complaining party and the decision that the accused party is to provide restitution to the complaining party. The notification may also include information related to the resolution of the complaint.

[0085] Referring back to block 1635, the network-based transaction facility 110 rejects the complaint. For example, the network-based transaction facility 110 may determine the complaint to be invalid based on the proof of refund information received from the accused party.

[0086] At block, 1637, the network-based transaction facility 110 notifies the parties of the decision. For example, the network-based transaction facility 110 may email both parties of the decision in favor of the accused party and may also include information related to the resolution of the complaint.

[0087] Referring back to block 1640, the network-based transaction facility 110 determines whether the accused party selected to resolve the dispute by providing tracking information (e.g., a tracking number, shipping carrier being used, date shipped, destination address, current location, etc.). If tracking information has been received, control passes to block 1642. If tracking information has not been received, control passes to block 1680.

[0088] At block 1642, the network-based transaction facility 110 sends a request for tracking information to the accused party. For example, Figure 23 illustrates one embodiment of a provide tracking information view 2300. The provide tracking information view 2300 includes a tracking number field 2310 and a shipping company field 2320. The tracking number field 2310 prompts the accused party to provide a shipping tracking number of the auctioned item in dispute. The shipping company field 2320 prompts the accused party to provide a name of a shipping carrier that shipped the auctioned item, such as United Parcel Service (UPS), United States Postal Service (USPS), Federal Express (FedEx), Airborne Express, DHL Worldwide Express, or among others.

[0089] At block 1645, the network-based transaction facility 110 receives the shipping tracking information from the accused party.

[0090] At block 1650, the network-based transaction facility 110 determines whether the shipping tracking information is valid. For example, the network-based transaction

facility 110 may electronically determine whether the shipping tracking information is valid based an automatic comparison of the received shipping tracking information and the tracking information stored on a computer of the related shipping carrier over a network. If the tracking information is valid, control passes to block 1655. If the tracking information is not valid, control passes to block 1665. In one embodiment, an agent associated with the shipping information will manually confirm the shipping tracking information with the related shipping carrier via telephone, fax, electronic mail, among other communications mechanisms well known to those or ordinary skill in the art.

[0091] At block 1655, the network-based transaction facility 110 rejects the complaint. For example, the network-based transaction facility 110 may reject the complaint because a purchased item is in transit based on the received shipping tracking information.

[0092] At block 1660, the network-based transaction facility 110 notifies the parties of the decision. For example, the network-based transaction facility 110 may email both parties of the decision in favor of the accused party and the decision based on the evidence that the item has been shipped to the complaining party. The notification may also include information related to the resolution of the complaint, such as the tracking information and other resolution information.

[0093] At block 1665, the network-based transaction facility 110 approves the complaint. For example, the network-based transaction facility 110 may approve the complaint because there is no proof the purchased item was sent to the complaining party based on the received tracking information.

[0094] At block 1670, the network-based transaction facility 110 provides restitution to the complaining party. For example, the network-based transaction facility 110 may facilitate a refund payment, facilitate a partial refund payment, facilitate a stop payment, or facilitate the completion of the transaction (e.g., facilitate performance, such as facilitate payment or facilitate the delivery of the auctioned item), etc.

[0095] At block 1675, the network-based transaction facility 110 notifies the parties of the decision. For example, the network-based transaction facility 110 may email both parties of the decision in favor of the complaining party and the decision that the accused party is to provide restitution to the complaining party. The notification may also include information related to the resolution of the complaint.

[0096] Referring back to block 1680, the network-based transaction facility 110 sends a request to accept liability to the accused party of the dispute. In one embodiment the network-based transaction facility 110 sends the accused party an online form prompting the accused party for any additional details explaining the non-performance. For example, Figure 24 illustrates one embodiment of an accept liability view 2400. The accept liability view 2400 displays information about the dispute 2410 and has an additional comments field 2420. The additional comments field 2420 prompts the accused party to provide comments for failing to perform the transaction.

[0097] At block 1682, the network-based transaction facility 110 receives the accept liability information related to the complaint.

[0098] At block 1684, the network-based transaction facility 110 approves the complaint based on the accused party's expressed acceptance of liability.

[0099] At block 1685, the network-based transaction facility 110 provides restitution to the complaining party. For example, the network-based transaction facility 110 may facilitate a refund payment, facilitate partial refund payment, facilitate a stop payment, or facilitate the completion of the transaction (e.g., facilitate performance, such as facilitate payment or facilitate the delivery of the auctioned item), etc.

[00100] At block 1690, the network-based transaction facility 110 notifies the parties of the decision. For example, the network-based transaction facility 110 may email both parties of the decision in favor of the complaining party and the decision that the accused party is to provide restitution to the complaining party. The notification may also include information related to the resolution of the complaint, such as the reasons for non-performance.

[00101] Figure 25 illustrates one embodiment of a NAD process flow 2500 in relation to the NAD type complaint as described above in conjunction with block 1603.

[00102] At block 2503, the network-based transaction facility 110 sends a NAD form to the buyer. In one embodiment, an item is not as described if the seller misrepresents the item in a way that affects its value or usability. The NAD form enables the buyer to provide NAD information. For example, the NAD information may include information related to the condition of the purchase made by the buyer. Figure 26 illustrates one embodiment of a NAD dispute form 2600. In one embodiment, the buyer may use the NAD dispute form 2600 to provide details about the condition of the purchase. For example, the buyer may select one or more of the following checkboxes to indicate the

condition of the delivery item. For instance, the buyer may select checkbox 2605 to report the item arrived with missing parts that prevent the item from being used (e.g., no computer processor, no motor, etc.); select checkbox 2610 to report the item arrived with external damage to the item (e.g., scratches, cracks, chips, rips, dents, stains, odor, etc.); select checkbox 2615 to report the item arrived with a missing quantity (e.g., ordered 12 units but received 6, etc.); select checkbox 2620 to report the item arrived internally damaged (e.g., doesn't power on, doesn't play or plays with errors (DVD, CD, software, etc.); select checkbox 2625 to report the item arrived used when described as new (e.g., Original listing said it was "new" or "mint", etc.); select checkbox 2630 to report the item arrived with shipping cost issues (e.g., shipping cost more than expected, etc.); select checkbox 2635 to report the item arrived with sales tax issues (e.g., sales tax more than expected, etc.); select checkbox 2640 to report the item that arrived is a different model, version, or size (e.g., incompatible operating system (Microsoft Windows v. Macintosh), Motorcycle engine v. automobile engine, shoes too small to wear, etc.); select checkbox 2645 to report the item arrived with different design/pattern (e.g., floral v. striped, etc.); select checkbox 2650 to report the item that arrived is of a different category entirely (e.g., ordered a book, got a brick, etc.); select checkbox 2655 to report the item that arrived is of a different material (e.g., cotton v. silk, glass v. plastic, etc.); select checkbox 2660 to report the item that arrived is a less valuable substitute (e.g., less powerful (Intel Corporation Pentium 4 processor v. Pentium 3 processor), lower perceived quality (branded v. generic), etc.); select checkbox 2665 to report the time-sensitive item arrived late (e.g., concert tickets, etc.); select checkbox 2670 to report the item that arrived has a color difference (e.g., slight (light green v. dark green), moderate (green v. teal), serious (green v. red), etc.); select checkbox 2675 to report the item that arrived is ruined food/plants (e.g., spoiled, dead/weltered, etc.); select checkbox 2680 to report the item that arrived is a copy of an original (e.g., bootleg or pirated copy (music, movie, software, etc.); photocopy, etc.); select checkbox 2685 to report the item that arrived is an imitation (e.g., fake Rolex, fake Gucci purse, fake Armani suit, etc.); and/or select checkbox 2690 to report an empty box arrival (e.g., empty or contains unrelated material, etc.). Furthermore, the Form 2600 allows the buyer to provide additional details in the textbox 2695.

[00103] At block 2506, the network-based transaction facility 110 receives the NAD information from the buyer. NAD information may include, for example, information collected using the NAD dispute form 2600.

[00104] At block 2509, the network-based transaction facility 110 sends a Dispute Complaint Response Form to the seller. For example, Figure 27 illustrates one embodiment of a resolve complaint form 2700 to obtain NAD resolution information from the seller. The resolve complaint form 2700 allows a seller to respond to the complaint. The resolve complaint form 2700 includes radio buttons that the seller may select to indicate a manner to resolve the dispute. A radio button 2710 enables the seller to indicate a willingness to issue the buyer a full refund to resolve the complaint. A radio button 2720 enables the seller to indicate a willingness to provide the buyer a full refund if the NAD item is returned in an attempt to resolve the complaint. A radio button 2730 enables the seller to indicate a willingness to offer the buyer a partial refund in an attempt to resolve the complaint. A radio button 2740 enables the seller to indicate that the buyer has already been refunded and a seller will provide proof of the refund. A radio button 2750 enables the seller to indicate disagreement with the complaint and to provide additional information.

[00105] At block 2512, the network-based transaction facility 110 receives the NAD resolution information from the Seller. At decision block 2515, the network-based transaction facility 110 determines whether the seller provided an indication to refund the buyer for the NAD item. If the seller provides an indication to refund the buyer, control passes to block 2518. If the seller did not provide an indication to refund the buyer, control passes to block 2521.

[00106] At block 2518, the network-based transaction facility 110 facilitates payment of the refund to the buyer. In one embodiment, the network-based transaction facility 110 may automatically transfer the appropriate refund amount from a financial account of the seller to a financial account of the buyer.

[00107] At block 2521, the network-based transaction facility 110 determines whether the seller provided an indication to refund the buyer after the NAD item is returned. If the seller provided an indication to refund the buyer after the NAD item is returned, control passes to block 2524. If the seller did not provide an indication to refund the buyer after the NAD item is returned, control passes to block 2536.

[00108] At block 2524, the network-based transaction facility 110 notifies the buyer to return the NAD item and provide the tracking information (e.g., tracking number, shipping carrier being used, date shipped, destination address, current location, etc.).

[00109] At block 2527, the network-based transaction facility 110 receives the tracking information from the buyer.

[00110] At block 2530, the network-based transaction facility 110 sends the tracking number to the seller.

[00111] At block 2533, the network-based transaction facility 110 receives confirmation from the seller of receipt of the NAD item and facilitates a refund to the buyer. In one embodiment, the network-based transaction facility 110 may automatically transfer the appropriate refund amount from a financial account of the seller to a financial account of the buyer.

[00112] At decision block 2536, the network-based transaction facility 110 determines whether the seller provided an indication to provide a partial refund to the buyer. If the seller provides an indication to negotiate a partial refund with the buyer for the NAD item, control passes to block 2537. If the seller does not provide an indication to negotiate a partial refund with the buyer for the NAD item, control passes to block 2551.

[00113] At block 2537, the network-based transaction facility 110 sends the seller a partial refunds form to the seller to obtain the partial refund amount offered by the seller to the buyer for the NAD item. In this fashion, both parties may negotiate a fair price for the item without human intervention. For example, Figure 28 illustrates one embodiment of the Partial Refund Offer Form 2800. The partial refund offer form 2800 may include a transaction identifier (ID) field 2805, a name field 2810, an electronic mail (e-mail) field 2815, a total amount field 2820, a buyer's requested refund field 2825, a gross refund amount field 2830, a net refund amount field 2835, a fee refunded field 2840, a source of funds field 2845, a note to buyer field 2859, and ship to field 2855. The transaction identifier field 2805, the name field 2810, the electronic mail field 2815, the total amount field 2820 indicate the current transaction ID, name, e-mail address, and purchase amount of the transaction in dispute. If the buyer provides a refund amount to settle the dispute, for example, within the complaint, the buyer's requested refund will display in the buyer's requested refund field 2825. The seller may indicate a partial refund amount offer to resolve the complaint in the gross refund amount field 2830. If additional fees were related to the original complaint, the net refund and fee refunded are

displayed in the net refund amount field 2835 and the fee refunded field 2840. The source of funds field 2845 may indicate to the seller which financial account the funds will be taken from. The seller may provide a message to buyer, for example, to help negotiate the partial refund offer, with the note to buyer field 2850. The ship to field 2855 allows the seller to indicate a mailing address to return the NAD item if the partial refund offer is rejected and, for example, is investigated as will be described.

[00114] At block 2538, the network-based transaction facility 110 receives the partial refund amount offer from the seller.

[00115] At block 2539, the network-based transaction facility 110 notifies the buyer of the partial refund amount offer. In this fashion, the buyer may decide whether to accept the partial refund amount. In one embodiment, the buyer may offer a counter-proposal, by which the seller and buyer may continue to negotiate a final partial refund amount.

[00116] At block 2542, the network-based transaction facility 110 receives the response to the partial refund offer amount from the buyer.

[00117] At decision block 2542, the network-based transaction facility 110 determines whether the buyer agrees to the partial refund offer. If the buyer agrees to the partial refund offer, control passes to block 2545. If the buyer does not agree to the partial refund offer, control passes to block 2548.

[00118] At block 2545, the network-based transaction facility 110 facilitates the payment of the partial refund to the buyer. In one embodiment, the network-based transaction facility 110 may automatically transfer the appropriate refund amount from a financial account of the seller to a financial account of the buyer; automatically prepare a check to be mailed to the buyer, etc.

[00119] Referring back to decision block 2551, the network-based transaction facility 110 determines whether the seller provided an indication to provide a proof of refund. If the seller provided an indication to provide a proof of refund, control passes to block 1612 and the process flow continues as described above. If the seller did not provide an indication to provide a proof of refund, control passes to block 2554.

[00120] At decision block 2554, the network-based transaction facility 110 determines whether the buyer indicated the reason for the NAD complaint is because of an empty box or a different category, for example as described above. If the complaint is for an

empty box/different category, control passes to block 2557. If the complaint is not for an empty box/different category, control passes to block 2563.

[00121] At block 2557, the network-based transaction facility 110 requests the buyer to provide a copy of a police report regarding the empty box item or of a different category. In this fashion, for example, the submission of frivolous complaints may be reduced. In one embodiment, the network-based transaction facility 110 might also only require a police report if the cost of the item is greater than a predetermined amount (e.g., \$200).

[00122] At block 2560, the network-based transaction facility 110 receives a copy of the police report. In one embodiment, the network-based transaction facility 110 receives a scan copy of the police report or a faxed copy of the police report.

[00123] At block 2563, the network-based transaction facility 110 sends a disagree with complaint form to the seller. For example, Figure 29 illustrates a disagree with complaint form 2900. The seller may respond to each of the buyer's reasons for filing the complaint (2910, 2915) within a textbox (2930, 2935).

[00124] At block 2566, the network-based transaction facility 110 receives an explanation from the seller.

[00125] At block 2548, the network-based transaction facility 110 performs an investigation of the complaint. The network-based transaction facility 110 may perform the investigation automatically without human intervention, with human intervention, or a combination of both. Both parties will be notified of the results of the investigation. The investigation may determine to accept the complaint from the buyer and therefore, require the seller to refund the buyer. Alternatively, the investigation may determine to reject the complaint and end the investigation. In one embodiment, if the complaint is accepted, the buyer is required to return the item and provide tracking information (form not shown). After the network-based transaction facility 110 confirms the seller has received the returned item, the network-based transaction facility 110 will facilitate the refund of funds to the buyer. In one embodiment, the network-based transaction facility 110 may automatically transfer the appropriate refund amount from a financial account of the seller to a financial account of the buyer; prepare a check to be mailed to the buyer, etc.

[00126] In one embodiment, the network-based transaction facility 110 might also request additional information, as evidence, from which to base the decision, such as a

certificate of authentication from a third party, a digital photo of the disputed item, affidavits from a third party regarding the disputed item, additional police reports, etc. This additional information may be provided to the network-based transaction facility 110 electronically or by other means.

[00127] In one embodiment, a third party agent may view the information related with each dispute within a view (not shown), including the complaint, response to the complaint, and negotiation of partial refund, etc. Furthermore, each complaint may be prioritized for view based on the transaction amount, language, a service level agreement, etc.

[00128] It should be understood that the process flows 1600 and 2500 are not limited to the blocks as described above. For example, the network-based transaction facility 110 may wait a predetermined amount of time for responses from the parties and/or remind parties to reply to requests for information within a predetermined amount of time. Furthermore, the network-based transaction facility 110 may automatically accept the complaint, reject the complaint, and/or facilitate the performance of restitution if a party to the transaction does not respond within a predetermined amount of time. For example, if the seller does not respond to a complaint within 10 days, the network-based transaction facility 110 will approve the complaint. However, longer wait periods may be necessary to accommodate international shipping times (e.g., 15 calendar days).

[00129] It should also be understood that the information exchanged in the process flows 1600 and 2500, as shown in Figures 16 and 25, may be stored as resolution information in a resolution information table of the database illustrated in Figure 2.

[00130] Furthermore, it is understood that the notification of the buyer and seller as described above is not limited to using online forms, as described above. Rather, one of ordinary skill in the art will recognize additional mechanisms may be used to notify the parties including electronic mail, and text messaging, among other examples.

Exemplary Computing System

[00131] FIG. 30 is a diagrammatic representation of a machine, in an exemplary form of a computer system 3000, in which a set of instructions for causing the machine to perform any of the methodologies of the present invention may be executed. In alternative embodiments, the machine may comprise a network router, a network switch, a network bridge, a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA), a cellular telephone, a web

appliance or any machine capable of executing a sequence of instructions that specify actions to be taken by that machine.

[00132] The computer system 3000 includes a processor 3002, a main memory 3004 and a static memory 3006, which communicate with each other via a bus 3008. The computer system 3000 may further include a video display unit 3010 (e.g., a liquid crystal display (LCD) or a cathode ray tube (CRT)). The computer system 3000 also includes an alpha-numeric input device 3012 (e.g., a keyboard), a cursor control device 3014 (e.g., a mouse), a disk drive unit 3016, a signal generation device 3020 (e.g., a speaker) and a network interface device 3022.

[00133] The disk drive unit 3016 includes a machine-readable medium 3024 on which is stored a set of instructions (i.e., software) 3026 embodying any one, or all, of the methodologies described above. The instructions 3026 is also shown to reside, completely or at least partially, within the main memory 3004 and/or within the processor 3002. The instructions 3026 may further be transmitted or received via the network interface device 3022. For purposes of this specification, the term "machine-readable medium" shall be taken to include any medium that is capable of storing or encoding a sequence of instructions for execution by the machine and that cause the machine to perform any one of the methodologies of the present invention. The term "machine-readable medium" shall accordingly be taken to include, but not limited to, solid-state memories, optical and magnetic disks, and carrier wave signals.

[00134] It will be appreciated that more or fewer processes may be incorporated into the method(s) illustrated in Figures 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 16, and 25 without departing from the scope of the invention and that no particular order is implied by the arrangement of blocks shown and described herein. It further will be appreciated that the method(s) described in conjunction with Figure 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 16, and 25 may be embodied in machine-executable instructions, e.g. software. The instructions can be used to cause a general-purpose or special-purpose processor that is programmed with the instructions to perform the operations described. Alternatively, the operations might be performed by specific hardware components that contain hardwired logic for performing the operations, or by any combination of programmed computer components and custom hardware components. The methods may be provided as a computer program product that may include a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions which may be used to program a computer (or other electronic devices) to perform the methods.

Furthermore, it is common in the art to speak of software, in one form or another (e.g., program, procedure, process, application, module, logic, etc.), as taking an action or causing a result. Such expressions are merely a shorthand way of saying that execution of the software by a computer causes the processor of the computer to perform an action or produce a result.

[00135] The exemplary embodiments of the present invention have been discussed above within the context of a network-based transaction facility 110, which operates as a platform by which parties can establish an agreement to transact. It will, of course, be appreciated that the present invention is not limited to use within the context of such a trading platform, and may be deployed by any platform or service that is involved in a transaction. For example, the present invention could be deployed by a payment service that facilitates the transfer of funds between parties, a shipping service that is involved in the physical transport of products between parties or a services platform that allows one party to deliver a service to another party in exchange for value. The term “network-based transaction facility” should be construed to include a network-based trading platform, a payment service, a shipping service, or a services-delivery platform, for example.

[00136] Thus, a method and system for dealing with non-performing parties related to network-based transactions has been described. In the foregoing specification, the invention has been described with reference to specific exemplary embodiments thereof. It will, however, be evident that various modifications and changes may be made thereto without departing from the broader scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims. The specification and drawings are, accordingly, to be regarded in an illustrative sense rather than in a restrictive sense.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A network based facility system including:
a computing system including a memory; and
a process, to resolve a dispute, to be performed by the computing system, from the memory, and to cause the computing system to receive a complaint over a network from a first party to a network-based transaction, the complaint being associated to the transaction, the computing system to send a request for a resolution information over the network to a second party to the transaction, the computing system to receive the resolution information over the network from the second party, and the computing system automatically to provide restitution to the first party, the restitution being associated with the transaction.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the restitution to the first party is a refund of funds to the first party.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the restitution to the first party is a partial refund of funds to the first party.
4. The system of claim 1, wherein the restitution is automatically provided directly from a financial account related to the second party to a financial account related to the first party.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein the automatic provision of the restitution further includes automatically confirming tracking information with a shipping carrier, the tracking information pertaining to a shipment of an item that is the subject of the transaction.
6. The system of claim 5, wherein the process is further causes the computing system not to provide the restitution to the first party if it is determined from the shipping carrier that the shipment has not occurred.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the restitution to the first party is to facilitate the delivery of the item.
8. The system of claim 1, wherein the resolution information includes a proof of refund.
9. The system of claim 8, wherein the automatic provision of the restitution further includes validating the proof of refund.
10. The system of claim 8, wherein the validating of the proof of refund further includes confirming the proof of refund with a third party financial institution.
11. The system of claim 9, wherein the process causes the computing system to not provide the restitution to the first party if it is determined from the validation that the proof of refund is not valid.
12. The system of claim 1, wherein the restitution information includes an acceptance of liability from the second party.
13. The system of claim 1, wherein the complaint includes an indication the complaint relates to a not as described item.
14. The system of claim 13, wherein the resolution information indicates a desire to dispute the complaint.
15. The system of claim 14, wherein the process further causes the computing system to receive evidence from the first party and the second party related to the complaint.
16. The system of claim 15, wherein the process further causes the computing system to investigate the complaint and to notify the parties of a result of the investigation.
17. A network based facility system including:

means for receiving a complaint over a network from a first party to a transaction, the complaint being associated to the transaction;

means for sending a request for a resolution information over the network to a second party to the transaction, responsive to receipt of the complaint;

means for receiving the resolution information over the network from the second party, the resolution information being received responsive to the request; and

means for automatically providing restitution to the first party, the restitution being associated with the transaction.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the restitution to the first party is a refund of funds to the first party.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein the restitution to the first party is a partial refund of funds to the first party.

20. The system of claim 17, wherein the means for automatically providing restitution includes a means for automatically providing funds from a financial account related to the second party direct to a financial account related to the first party.

21. The system of claim 17, wherein the means for automatically providing restitution includes a means for confirming shipping tracking information with a shipping carrier, the shipping tracking information pertaining to a shipment of an item that is the subject of the transaction.

22. The system of claim 17, wherein the complaint includes an indication the complaint relates to a not as described item.

23. The system of claim 17, further comprises a means for investigating the complaint and a means for notifying the parties of a result of the investigation.

24. A method for a network-based facility, the method including:
receiving a complaint over a network from a first party to a transaction, the complaint being associated to the transaction;

responsive to receipt of the complaint, sending a request for resolution information over the network to a second party to the transaction;
receiving the resolution information over the network from the second party; and
automatically providing restitution to the first party based on the resolution information, the restitution being associated with the transaction.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the restitution to the first party is a refund of funds to the first party.

26. The method of claim 24, wherein the restitution to the first party is a partial refund of funds to the first party.

27. The method of claim 24, wherein the restitution is automatically provided directly from a financial account related to the second party to a financial account related to the first party.

28. The method of claim 24, wherein the automatic provision of the restitution includes confirming tracking information with a shipping carrier, the tracking information pertaining to a shipment of an item that is the subject of the transaction.

29. The method of claim 24, including not providing the restitution to the first party if it is determined from the shipping carrier that the shipment has not occurred.

30. The method of claim 24, wherein the restitution to the first party is to facilitate delivery of the item.

31. The method of claim 24, wherein the resolution information includes a proof of refund.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the automatic provision of the restitution includes validating the proof of refund.

33. The method of claim 31, wherein the validating of the proof of refund includes

confirming the proof of refund with a third party financial institution.

34. The method of claim 24, wherein the resolution information includes an acceptance of liability.

35. The method of claim 24, further including:
accepting the complaint from the first party upon determining the complaint is sent from the first party a predetermined time period after the associated transaction.

36. The method of claim 24, wherein the complaint includes an indication the complaint relates to a not as described item.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the resolution information indicates a desire to dispute the complaint.

38. The method of claim 37, further including:
receiving evidence from the first party and the second party related to the complaint.

39. The method of claim 38, further including:
investigating the complaint; and
notifying the parties of a result of the investigation.

40. A machine-readable medium having instructions to cause a machine to perform a method for a network-based facility, the method including:
receiving a complaint over a network from a first party to a transaction, the complaint being associated to the transaction;
responsive to receipt of the complaint, sending a request for resolution information over the network to a second party to the transaction;
receiving the resolution information over the network from the second party; and
automatically providing restitution to the first party based on the resolution information, the restitution being associated with the transaction.

1/35

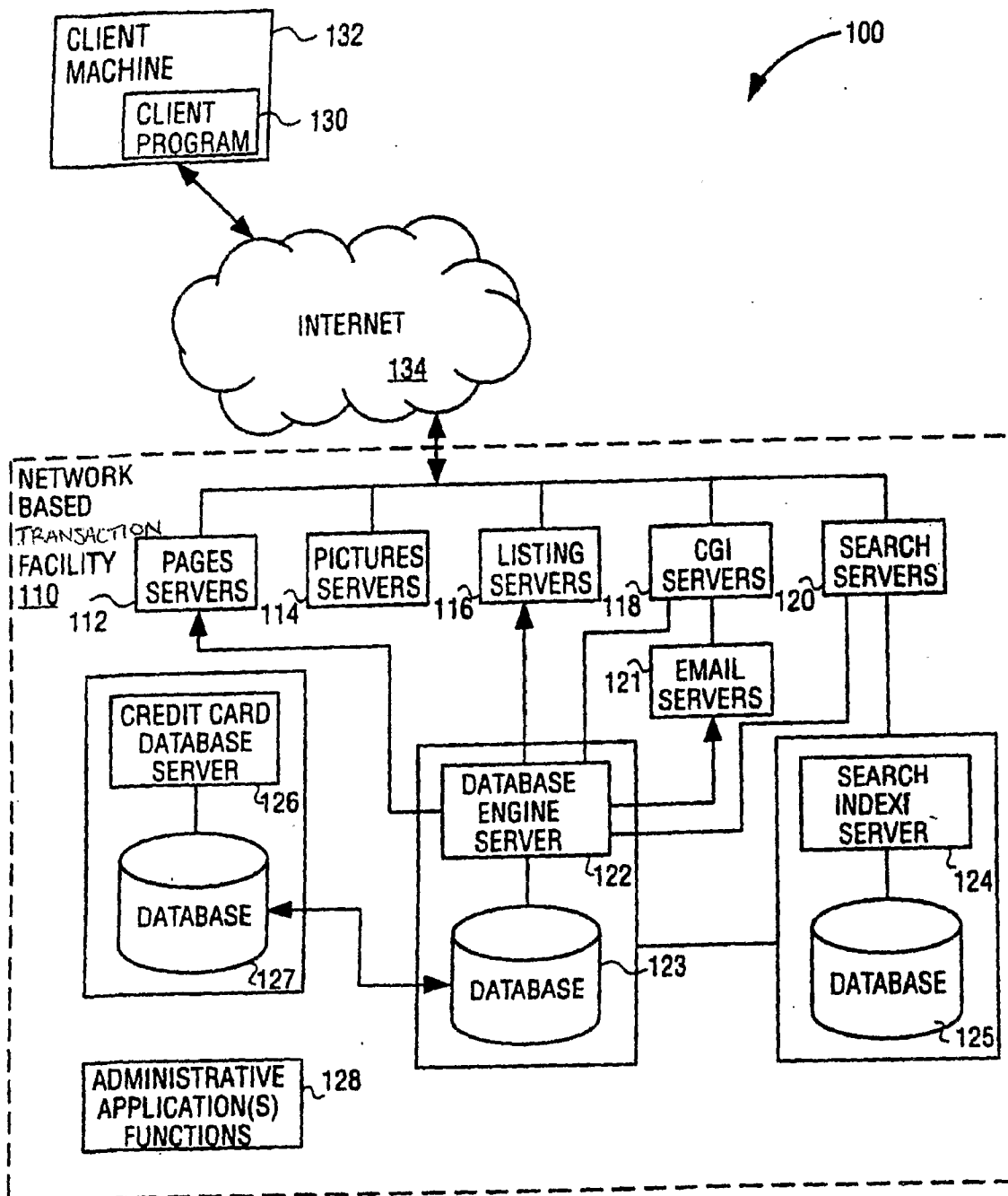


FIG. 1

2/35

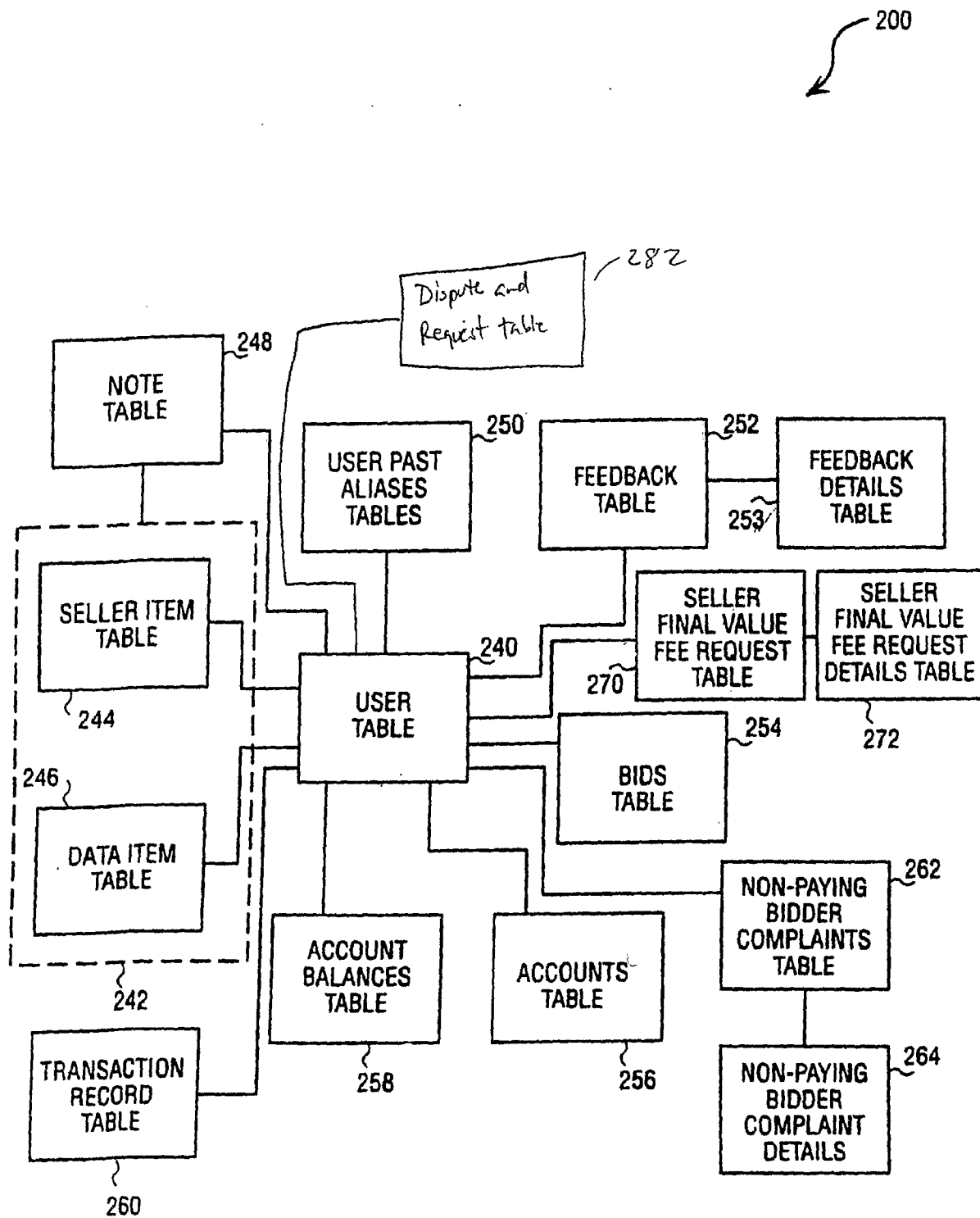


FIG. 2

500

SELLERS COMPLAINT TABLE				
SELLER'S USER ID	NPB USER ID	DATE OF COMPLAINT	REASON FOR COMPLAINT	STATUS OF COMPLAINT

FIG. 5

600

SELLERS FVF REQUEST TABLE				
SELLER'S USER ID	NPB USER ID	ITEM NO.	ACTION DESIRED	REASON FOR FVF CREDIT

FIG. 6

6/35

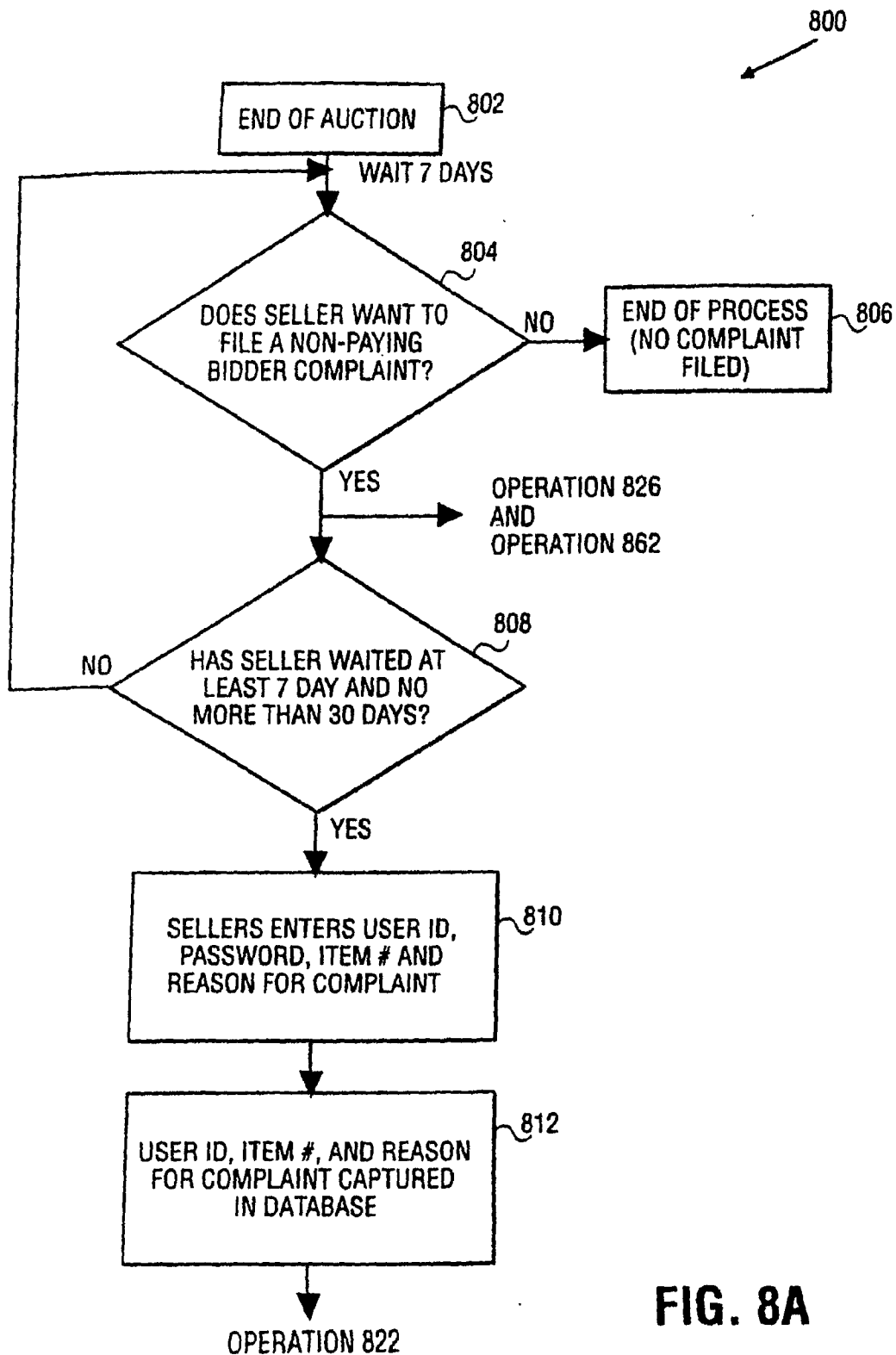


FIG. 8A

7/35

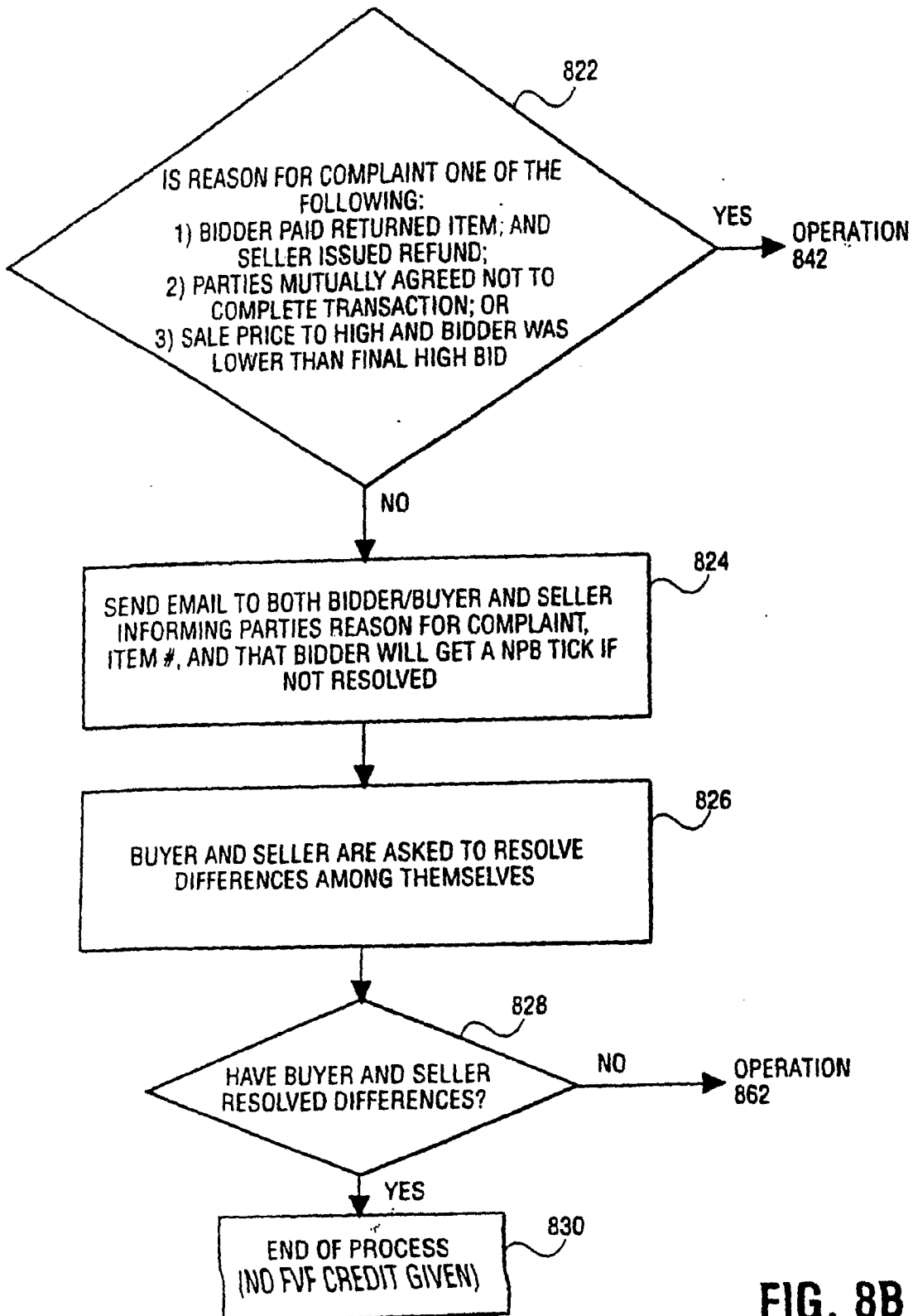


FIG. 8B

8/35

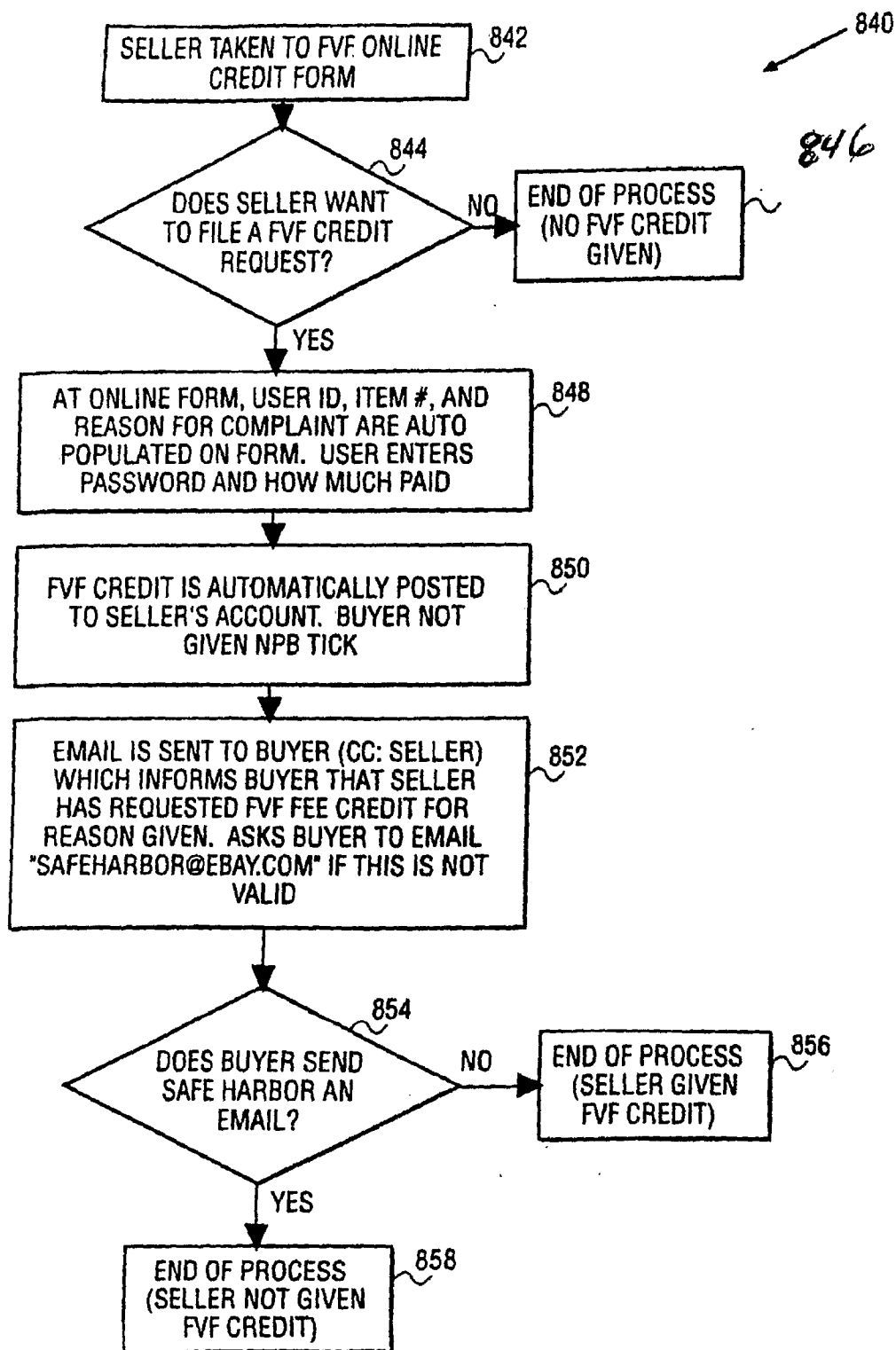


FIG. 8C

9/35

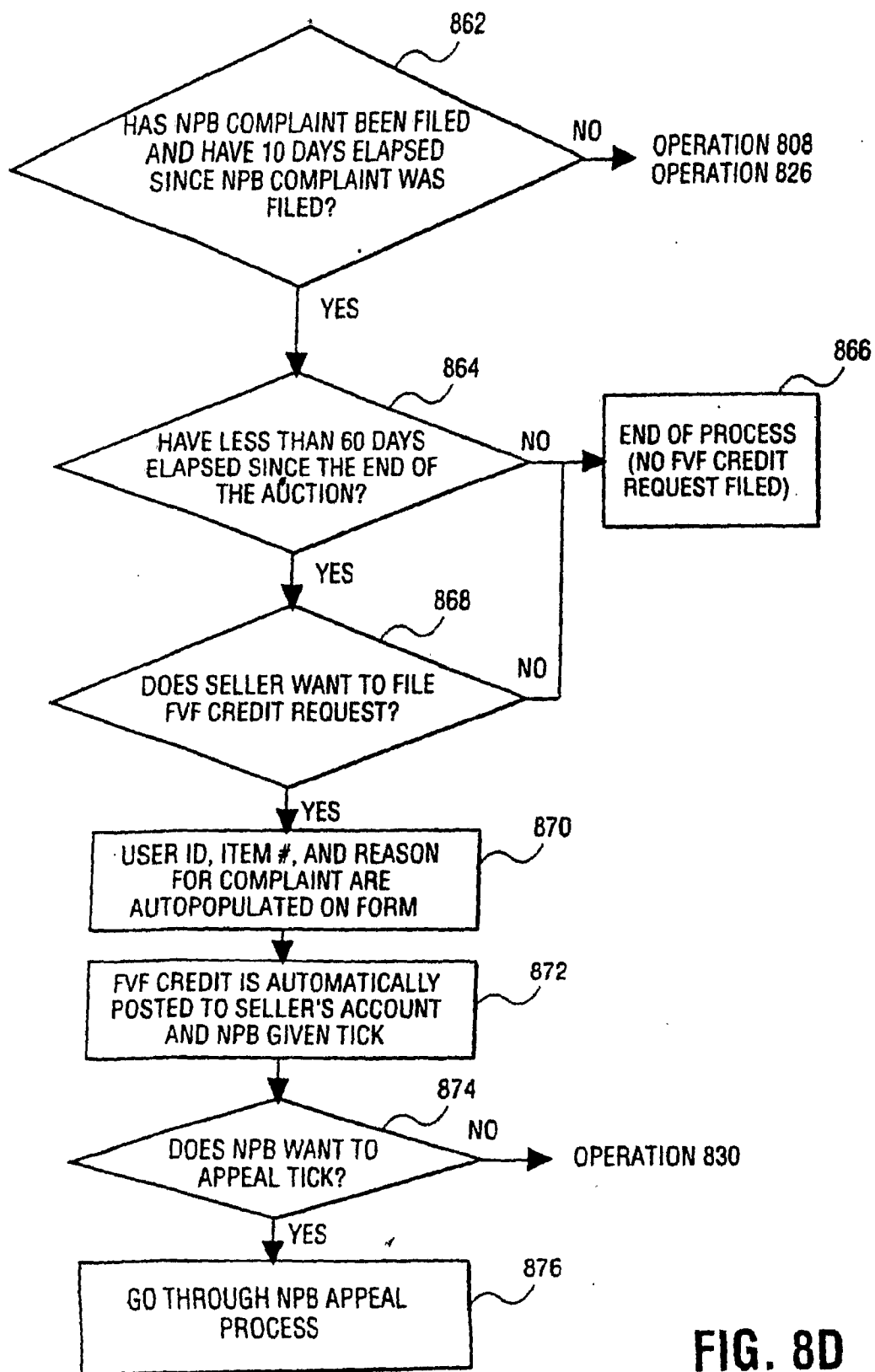


FIG. 8D

10/35

Quick Summary	Time Frame
1. Contact each other after your auction has ended	Generally within 3 business days is a good idea.
2. Complete a <u>Non-Paying Bidder Alert Form</u> .	After 7 days but not past 45 days of your auction's close.
3. Try to work things out.	After you file a Non-Paying Bidder Alert, try to work things out with your bidder in the next 10 days.
4. Request your Final Value Fee credit.	If you still haven't resolved things after 10 days of filing an Alert, complete the <u>Final Value Fee Credit Request Form</u> within 60 days of your auction's close.

Special note about Dutch Auctions: They work the same as other auctions with one exception: You may file a Non-Paying Bidder Alert Form only once per auction for as many bidders as necessary. That is, you cannot go back and file additional Alerts if you have more non-paying bidders from the same auction.

Special note to bidders: If you are a bidder and believe you received an unfair warning, you may appeal it by using eBay's Non-Paying Bidder Appeal Form. Warnings will remain on your record until they are successfully appealed.

Click [here](#) to visit our Non-Paying Bidder Frequently Asked Questions page.

[Announcements](#) | [Register](#) | [eBay Store](#) | [Safe Harbor \(Rules & Safety\)](#) | [Feedback Forum](#) | [About eBay](#)
[Home](#) | [My eBay](#) | [Site Map](#)

[Browse](#) | [Sell](#) | [Services](#) | [Search](#) | [Help](#) | [Community](#)
[Basics](#) | [Buyer Guide](#) | [Seller Guide](#) | [My Info](#) | [Billing](#) | [Rules & Safety](#)

902

FIG. 9

11/35

1002

home | my page | site map | sign in

Browse **Sell** **Services** **Search** **Help** **Community**

overview | registration | buying & selling | my page | about me | feedback forum | safe harbor

► Check out Modern and Contemporary Art on eBay Great Collections.

Search tips

☐ Search titles and descriptions

Non-Paying Bidder Alert Form

The Non-Paying Bidder Alert Form is intended to be a workout period to help buyers and sellers resolve their trading problems. After you file a Non-Paying Bidder Alert, eBay will send an email to both you and the high bidder, advising the high bidder that you have notified eBay that the bidder is a potential non-paying bidder and encouraging the high bidder to complete the transaction. You must file a Non-Paying Bidder Alert Form before you may request a Final Value Fee credit. If you have any questions about our Non-Paying Bidder Policy, click [here](#).

Please use care when filing a Non-Paying Bidder Alert--this Form should be used only if the high bidder is unresponsive. Using this Form as a tool to intimidate or coerce your buyers into completing the transaction may be cause for suspension.

To file a Non-Paying Bidder Alert against another eBay user:

- You must have a registered eBay User ID and password.
- You must be the seller of that item.
- At least 7 days and no more than 45 days have passed since the auction ended.
- The auction must have received at least one winning bid (for reserve auctions, this means at least one bid met or exceeded the reserve price.)
- NOTE: If your auction was a **Dutch auction**, you may file a Non-Paying Bidder Alert against as many bidders as you deem necessary, but you are entitled to file a Non-Paying Bidder Alert Form only **once** for each such auction. Thus, please wait until you know the status of all winning bidders before you file a Non-Paying Bidder Alert Form.

If you've satisfied all these conditions and want to file a Non-Paying Bidder Alert, please fill out the following form.

Your User ID: 1004

You can also use your email address.

Your Password: 1006

[Forgot your password?](#)

Save time by [signing in](#). (You may also [sign in securely](#)).

Item Number

Click **Submit** to continue.

[Announcements](#) | [Register](#) | [eBay Store](#) | [Safe Harbor \(Rules & Safety\)](#) | [Feedback Forum](#) | [About eBay](#)

FIG. 10A

12/35

1010

home | my page | site map | sign in

Browse Sell Services Search Help Community

▶ QA Staging Test Environment. Schema is e199_staging_main

Search tips

☐ Search titles and descriptions

Non-Paying Bidder Alert Form

"npb mockups"
Item #1021721

Date Auction Ended: 07/25/00
Final Bid Price: \$2.25

Please complete all fields that provided below.

1012

Reason for Non-Paying Bidder Alert	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> <p>Select reason from choices provided.</p>
Bidders e-mail address	testuser3@superslice.com

Please make sure that you have provided accurate information. eBay may use information provided here to identify bidders who are not complying with eBay rules.

Filing false Non-Payable Bidder Alerts is a form of harassment. Sellers found to be guilty of this offense will be suspended.

Click to enter your Non-Paying Bidder Alert.

default

FIG. 10B

13/35

1030

The screenshot shows a web application interface with a navigation bar at the top containing links: home | my page | site map | sign in. Below this is a menu with buttons: Browse, Sell, Services, Search, Help, and Community. A status bar indicates 'QA Staging Test Environment. Schema is e199_staging_main'. A search bar with a 'Search' button and a checkbox for 'Search titles and descriptions' is present. The main content area displays a confirmation message: 'Non-Paying Bidder Alert Completed!' followed by 'Your Non-Paying Bidder Alert has been filed for item #1021721.' and 'The emails regarding your Non-Paying Bidder Alert will be sent shortly, default'.

home | my page | site map | sign in

Browse Sell Services Search Help Community

QA Staging Test Environment. Schema is e199_staging_main

Search

☐ Search titles and descriptions

Non-Paying Bidder Alert Completed!

Your Non-Paying Bidder Alert has been filed for item #1021721.

The emails regarding your Non-Paying Bidder Alert will be sent shortly, default

FIG. 10C

14/35

1102

home | my page | site map | sign in

Browse **Sell** **Services** **Search** **Help** **Community**

overview | registration | buying & selling | my page | about me | feedback forum | safe harbor

► Check out Modern and Contemporary Art on eBay Great Collections.

Search tios

☐ Search titles and descriptions

Final Value Fee Credit Request Form

To request credit for Final Value Fees from a listing:

- You must have filed a Non-Paying Bidder Alert Form
- At least 10 days passed since you filed the Non-Paying Bidder Alert Form.
- No more than 60 days passed since the auction ended.
- Insertion fees and fees for listing options are non-refundable.

Note: Once you submit this Final Value Fee Credit Request Form, the high bidder will receive an email from eBay and may receive a Non-Paying Bidder Warning, which may result in the suspension of that user's account.

If you've satisfied all these conditions and want to file a Non-Paying Bidder Alert, please fill out the following form.

Your User ID:

You can also use your email address.

Your Password:

[Forgot your password?](#)

Save time by signing in. (You may also sign in securely).

Item Number

Click **Submit** to continue.

[Announcements](#) | [Register](#) | [eBay Store](#) | [SafeHarbor \(Rules & Safety\)](#) | [Feedback Forum](#) | [About eBay](#)

1104

1106

FIG. 11A

15/35

1108

home my page site map sign in					
Browse	Sell	Services	Search	Help	Community
▶ QA Staging Test Environment. Schema is e199_staging_main			<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Search"/>	tips
<input type="checkbox"/> Search titles and descriptions					
Final Value Fee Credit Request					
<div>"npb mockups"</div> <div>Item #1021721</div>					
Date Auction Ended: 07/25/00 Final Bid Price: \$2.25					
Please complete all fields that provided below. 1110					
Did you receive any money from the bidder?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes If Yes, how much? <input type="text"/> (numerals and decimal point '.' only.)				
Reason for refund	<div>--</div> <div>Select reason from choices provided.</div>				
Bidders e-mail address	testuser3@superslice.com				
Please make sure that you have provided accurate information. eBay may use information provided here to identify bidders who are not complying with eBay rules.					
Filing false Non-Payable Bidder Alerts is a form of harassment. Sellers found to be guilty of this offense will be suspended.					
Click <input type="button" value="Submit"/> to enter your final value fee credit request.					

FIG. 11B

16/35

1120

home my page site map sign in							
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin: 0 auto; width: 80%;"> Browse Sell Services Search Help Community </div>							
<p>▶ QA Staging Test Environment. Schema is e199_staging_main</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; align-items: center;"> <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Search"/> tips </div> <p style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Search titles and descriptions</p>							
<h3 style="margin: 0;">Final Value Fee Credit Request</h3>							
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%;"> "npb mockups" </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%;"> Item #1021722 </div>							
<p>Date Auction Ended: Jul-25-00 Final Bid Price: \$2.00</p>							
<p>Please complete all fields that provided below to apply for credit.</p> <p>This form allows you to request final value fee for this item. Click "Continue" button below to submit your request.</p>							
<p>Bidder #1 **Only provide information if this bidder backed out** 1122</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%; padding: 5px; vertical-align: top;"> Did you receive any money from the bidder? </td> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes If Yes, how much? <input style="width: 80px;" type="text"/> (numerals and decimal point '.' only.) </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px; vertical-align: top;"> Reason for refund </td> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> Select reason from choices provided. </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px; vertical-align: top;"> Bidders e-mail address </td> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> Select a bidder from the list provided. </td> </tr> </table>		Did you receive any money from the bidder?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes If Yes, how much? <input style="width: 80px;" type="text"/> (numerals and decimal point '.' only.)	Reason for refund	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> Select reason from choices provided.	Bidders e-mail address	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> Select a bidder from the list provided.
Did you receive any money from the bidder?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes If Yes, how much? <input style="width: 80px;" type="text"/> (numerals and decimal point '.' only.)						
Reason for refund	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> Select reason from choices provided.						
Bidders e-mail address	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> Select a bidder from the list provided.						
<p>Bidder #2 **Only provide information if this bidder backed out** 1124</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%; padding: 5px; vertical-align: top;"> Did you receive any money from the bidder? </td> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes If Yes, how much? <input style="width: 80px;" type="text"/> (numerals and decimal point '.' only.) </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px; vertical-align: top;"> Reason for refund </td> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> Select reason from choices provided. </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px; vertical-align: top;"> Bidders e-mail address </td> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> Select a bidder from the list provided. </td> </tr> </table>		Did you receive any money from the bidder?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes If Yes, how much? <input style="width: 80px;" type="text"/> (numerals and decimal point '.' only.)	Reason for refund	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> Select reason from choices provided.	Bidders e-mail address	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> Select a bidder from the list provided.
Did you receive any money from the bidder?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes If Yes, how much? <input style="width: 80px;" type="text"/> (numerals and decimal point '.' only.)						
Reason for refund	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> Select reason from choices provided.						
Bidders e-mail address	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> Select a bidder from the list provided.						
<p>Please make sure that you have provided accurate information. eBay may use information provided here to identify bidders who are not complying with eBay rules.</p> <p>Filing false Non-Payable Bidder Alerts is a form of harassment. Sellers found to be guilty of this offense will be suspended.</p> <p>Click <input type="button" value="Continue"/> to enter your final value fee credit request.</p>							

FIG. 11C

17/35

1202

home | my page | site map | sign in

Browse **Sell** **Services** **Search** **Help** **Community**

basics | buyer guide | seller guide | my info | billing | rules & safety

► Check out Modern and Contemporary Art on eBay Great Collections.

Search tips

☐ Search titles and descriptions

Non-Paying Bidder Appeal

To appeal a warning which you feel you have received in error, please provide the following information to eBay, using the message field on this form:

- The reason for your appeal
- Any supporting information

Your User ID: You can also use your email address.

Your Password: [Forgot your password?](#)

Save time by signing in. (You may also sign in securely).

Item Number	<input type="text"/>
Message	<div><div></div></div>

1204

1206

1208

FIG. 12

18/35

1302

home | my page | site map | sign in

Browse **Sell** **Services** **Search** **Help** **Community**

► QA Staging Test Environment. Schema is e199_staging_main

Search tips

☐ Search titles and descriptions

NPB Appeal Confirmation

Please complete all fields provided below to update users account

Item Number	1021722
Sellers UserID	test2@superslide.com
Bidders UserID	test1@superslide.com
Reason for NPB Appeal	-- Select reason from choices provided.
NPB Action Request	-- Select reason from choices provided.

Press the confirm button to complete the transaction and update test1@superslice.com's deadbeat score.

confirm

default

FIG. 13

19/35

1402

home | my page | site map | sign in

[Browse](#) | [Sell](#) | [Services](#) | [Search](#) | [Help](#) | [Community](#)

▶ QA Staging Test Environment. Schema is e199_staging_main
 tips
☐ Search titles and descriptions

Transaction Backout Profile for test1@superslice.com (0)

[View user's eNotes](#)

Credit Requests: 2
 Unique NPB Score: 1
 Total NPB Score: 1
 Warnings Issued: 0
 User Status: Confirmed

Here is the list of items that test1@superslice.com (0) has received full or partial credit for:

Code	Item	Start	End	Price	Title	Bidder
2	1021763	Aug-04-00	Jul-25-00 12:46:35	2.00	npb mockups2	test2@superslice.com (101) ★
2	1021721	Aug-04-00	Jul-25-00 11:24:57	2.25	npb mockups	testuser3 (0)

Here is the list of transactions that test1@superslice.com (0) has backed out of:

Code	Item	Start	End	Price	Title	Bidder
3 Remove	1021722	Aug-04-00	Jul-25-00 11:25:06	2.25	npb mockups-dutch	test2@superslice.com (101) ★

[Announcements](#) | [Register](#) | [eBay Store](#) | [Safe Harbor \(Rules & Safety\)](#) | [Feedback Forum](#) | [About eBay](#)

FIG. 14

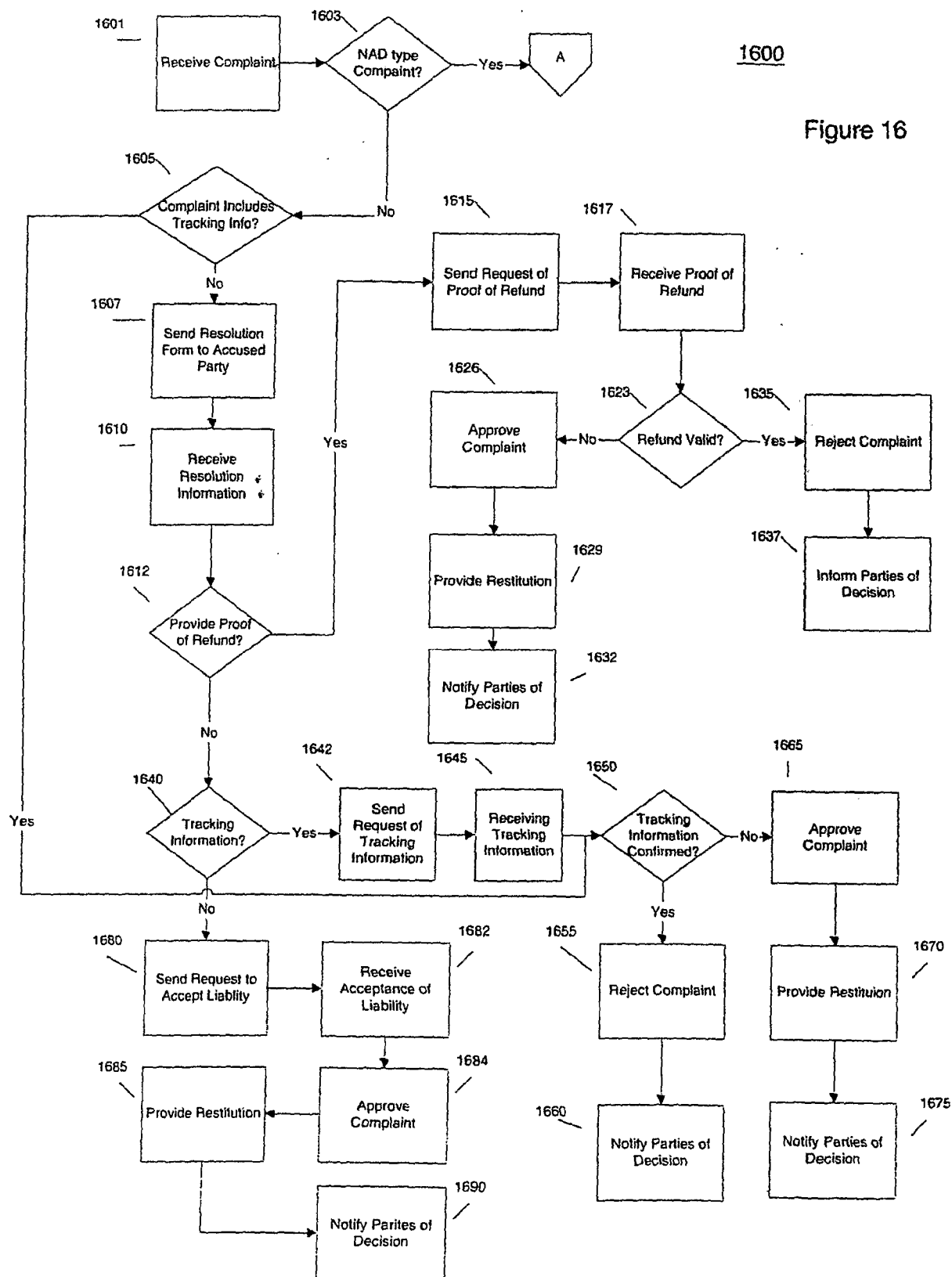
20/35

1500

1500 /	1510 /	1515 /	1520 /	1525 /	1530 /	1535 /	1540 /	1545 /
TYPE	COUNTER PARTY	TRANS- ACTION IDENTIFIER	DATE	AMOUNT	REASON	FILED ON	STATUS	ACTION

FIG. 15

21/35



22/35

1700

1710

1715

1720

1725

1760

1740

1745

1750

1755

1760

1765

1770

1775

1780

1785

1790

1795

1800

1805

1810

1815

1820

1825

1830

1835

1840

1845

1850

1855

1860

1865

1870

1875

1880

1885

1890

1895

1900

1905

1910

1915

1920

1925

1930

1935

1940

1945

1950

1955

1960

1965

1970

1975

1980

1985

1990

1995

2000

2005

2010

2015

2020

2025

2030

2035

2040

2045

2050

2055

2060

2065

2070

2075

2080

2085

2090

2095

2100

2105

2110

2115

2120

2125

2130

2135

2140

2145

2150

2155

2160

2165

2170

2175

2180

2185

2190

2195

2200

2205

2210

2215

2220

2225

2230

2235

2240

2245

2250

2255

2260

2265

2270

2275

2280

2285

2290

2295

2300

2305

2310

2315

2320

2325

2330

2335

2340

2345

2350

2355

2360

2365

2370

2375

2380

2385

2390

2395

2400

2405

2410

2415

2420

2425

2430

2435

2440

2445

2450

2455

2460

2465

2470

2475

2480

2485

2490

2495

2500

2505

2510

2515

2520

2525

2530

2535

2540

2545

2550

2555

2560

2565

2570

2575

2580

2585

2590

2595

2600

2605

2610

2615

2620

2625

2630

2635

2640

2645

2650

2655

2660

2665

2670

2675

2680

2685

2690

2695

2700

2705

2710

2715

2720

2725

2730

2735

2740

2745

2750

2755

2760

2765

2770

2775

2780

2785

2790

2795

2800

2805

2810

2815

2820

2825

2830

2835

2840

2845

2850

2855

2860

2865

2870

2875

2880

2885

2890

2895

2900

2905

2910

2915

2920

2925

2930

2935

2940

2945

2950

2955

2960

2965

2970

2975

2980

2985

2990

2995

3000

3005

3010

3015

3020

3025

3030

3035

3040

3045

3050

3055

3060

3065

3070

3075

3080

3085

3090

3095

3100

3105

3110

3115

3120

3125

3130

3135

3140

3145

3150

3155

3160

3165

3170

3175

3180

3185

3190

3195

3200

3205

3210

3215

3220

3225

3230

3235

3240

3245

3250

3255

3260

3265

3270

3275

3280

3285

3290

3295

3300

3305

3310

3315

3320

3325

3330

3335

3340

3345

3350

3355

3360

3365

3370

3375

3380

3385

3390

3395

3400

3405

3410

3415

3420

3425

3430

3435

3440

3445

3450

3455

3460

3465

3470

3475

3480

3485

3490

3495

3500

3505

3510

3515

3520

3525

3530

3535

3540

3545

3550

3555

3560

3565

3570

3575

3580

3585

3590

3595

3600

3605

3610

3615

3620

3625

3630

3635

3640

3645

3650

3655

3660

3665

3670

3675

3680

3685

3690

3695

3700

3705

3710

3715

3720

3725

3730

3735

3740

3745

3750

3755

3760

3765

3770

3775

3780

3785

3790

3795

3800

3805

3810

3815

3820

3825

3830

3835

3840

3845

3850

3855

3860

3865

3870

3875

3880

3885

3890

3895

3900

3905

3910

3915

3920

3925

3930

3935

3940

3945

3950

3955

3960

3965

3970

3975

3980

3985

3990

3995

4000

4005

4010

4015

4020

4025

4030

4035

4040

4045

4050

4055

4060

4065

4070

4075

4080

4085

4090

4095

4100

4105

4110

4115

4120

4125

4130

4135

4140

4145

4150

4155

4160

4165

4170

4175

4180

4185

4190

4195

4200

4205

4210

4215

4220

4225

4230

4235

4240

4245

4250

4255

4260

4265

4270

4275

4280

4285

4290

4295

4300

4305

4310

4315

4320

4325

4330

4335

4340

4345

4350

4355

4360

4365

4370

4375

4380

4385

4390

4395

4400

4405

4410

4415

4420

4425

4430

4435

4440

4445

4450

4455

4460

4465

4470

4475

4480

4485

4490

4495

4500

4505

4510

4515

4520

4525

4530

4535

4540

4545

4550

4555

4560

4565

4570

4575

4580

4585

4590

4595

4600

4605

4610

4615

4620

4625

4630

4635

4640

4645

4650

4655

4660

4665

4670

4675

4680

4685

4690

4695

4700

4705

4710

4715

4720

4725

4730

4735

4740

4745

4750

4755

4760

4765

4770

4775

4780

4785

4790

4795

4800

4805

4810

4815

4820

4825

4830

4835

4840

4845

4850

4855

4860

4865

4870

4875

4880

4885

4890

4895

4900

4905

4910

4915

4920

4925

4930

4935

4940

4945

4950

4955

4960

4965

4970

4975

4980

4985

4990

4995

5000

5005

5010

5015

5020

5025

5030

5035

5040

5045

5050

5055

5060

5065

5070

5075

5080

5085

5090

5095

5100

5105

5110

5115

5120

5125

5130

5135

5140

5145

5150

5155

5160

5165

5170

5175

5180

5185

5190

5195

5200

5205

5210

5215

5220

5225

5230

5235

5240

5245

5250

5255

5260

5265

5270

5275

5280

5285

5290

5295

5300

5305

5310

5315

5320

5325

5330

5335

5340

5345

5350

5355

5360

5365

5370

5375

5380

5385

5390

5395

5400

5405

5410

5415

5420

5425

5430

5435

5440

5445

5450

5455

5460

5465

5470

5475

5480

5485

5490

5495

5500

5505

5510

5515

5520

5525

23/35

1800

[Log Out](#) | [Help](#)

My Account	Send Money	Request Money	Shop	Sell
Overview	Add Funds	Withdraw	History	Profile

Chargeback Details

Transaction ID: #02734325HD06192X

Buyer Name: dom-per-unver keefe

Buyer Email: mkeefe-dom-per-unver@paypal.com

Transaction Amount: \$85.96

Transaction Date: Mar 11, 2003

PayPal Case ID: PP-000-950-905

Reason for Dispute: Non Receipt

Chargeback Amount: \$34.67

Chargeback Date: Mar 11, 2003

Status: Waiting For Seller's Fax

Status Details: We are currently waiting for you to fax us proof that you previously issued a refund to the buyer outside of PayPal.

Your fax must be received within 5 days (by Mar 16, 2003). If your fax is not received within the specified timeframe, we will continue with our investigation.

Please be sure to use the fax cover sheet provided [here](#). Faxes received without the provided PayPal cover sheet will not be processed.

[Return to Transaction Claims and Disputes](#)[Mobile](#) | [Mass Pay](#) | [Money Market](#) | [ATM/Debit Card](#) | [BillPay](#) | [Referrals](#)[About Us](#) | [Accounts](#) | [Fees](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Security Center](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Developers](#) | [Help](#)

FIG. 18

24/35

1900

[Log Out](#) | [Help](#)

My Account	Send Money	Request Money	Shop	Sell
Overview	Add Funds	Withdraw	History	Profile

Resolve Chargeback

Please select a resolution option from below:

- 1910 - ☒ Provide tracking information
1920 - ☐ Provide proof of previous refund
1930 - ☐ Accept liability

Note: Failure to resolve complaints within 10 days is a violation of the PayPal User Agreement.

1940 -

1945

[Mobile](#) | [Mass Pay](#) | [Money Market](#) | [ATM/Debit Card](#) | [BillPay](#) | [Referrals](#)[About Us](#) | [Accounts](#) | [Fees](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Security Center](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Developers](#) | [Help](#)

FIG. 19

25/35

[Log Out](#) | [Help](#)

My Account	Send Money	Request Money	Shop	Sell
Overview	Add Funds	Withdraw	History	Profile

Provide Proof of Refund

Did you use PayPal to provide your refund?

- 2010 — ☒ Yes, my refund was issued via PayPal
- 2020 — ☐ No, my refund was issued using a method other than PayPal

[Continue](#) [Cancel](#)

2030

[Mobile](#) | [Mass Pay](#) | [Money Market](#) | [ATM/Debit Card](#) | [BillPay](#) | [Referrals](#)

[About Us](#) | [Accounts](#) | [Fees](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Security Center](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Developers](#) | [Help](#)

FIG. 20

26/35

2100

[Log Out](#) | [Help](#)

My Account	Send Money	Request Money	Shop	Sell
Overview	Add Funds	Withdraw	History	Profile

Provide Proof of Refund

So we may verify your refund and resolve this complaint, please find the refund's Transaction ID and provide it in the box below.

[Get Transaction ID](#)

Transaction ID:

[Mobile](#) | [Mass Pay](#) | [Money Market](#) | [ATM/Debit Card](#) | [BillPay](#) | [Referrals](#)
[About Us](#) | [Accounts](#) | [Fees](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Security Center](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Developers](#) | [Help](#)

FIG. 21

27/35

2200

[Log Out](#) | [Help](#)

My Account	Send Money	Request Money	Shop	Sell
Overview	Add Funds	Withdraw	History	Profile

Provide Proof of Refund

Because you did not submit your refund using PayPal, you will need to provide proof of the refund. Please print [this fax cover sheet](#) to submit the details of your refund. We cannot process your submission unless you use the cover sheet provided.

[Back to Disputed Transactions](#)

[Mobile](#) | [Mass Pay](#) | [Money Market](#) | [ATM/Debit Card](#) | [BillPay](#) | [Referrals](#)

[About Us](#) | [Accounts](#) | [Fees](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Security Center](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Developers](#) | [Help](#)

FIG: 22

28/35

2300

[Log Out](#) | [Help](#)

My Account	Send Money	Request Money	Shop	Sell
Overview	Add Funds	Withdraw	History	Profile

Provide Tracking Info

Please provide the tracking number and shipping provider below.

Tracking Number: - 2310

Shipping Company: - 2320

[Mobile](#) | [Mass Pay](#) | [Money Market](#) | [ATM/Debit Card](#) | [BillPay](#) | [Referrals](#)
[About Us](#) | [Accounts](#) | [Fees](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Security Center](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Developers](#) | [Help](#)

FIG. 23

29/35

[Log Out](#) | [Help](#)

My Account	Send Money	Request Money	Shop	Sell
Overview	Add Funds	Withdraw	History	Profile

Accept Chargeback Liability

Buyer Name: dom-per-unver keefe

Buyer Email: mkeefe-dom-per-unver@paypal.com

PayPal Case ID: PP-000-950-905

Reason for Dispute: Non Receipt

Chargeback Amount: \$34.67

Chargeback Date: Mar 11, 2003

Additional Comments:

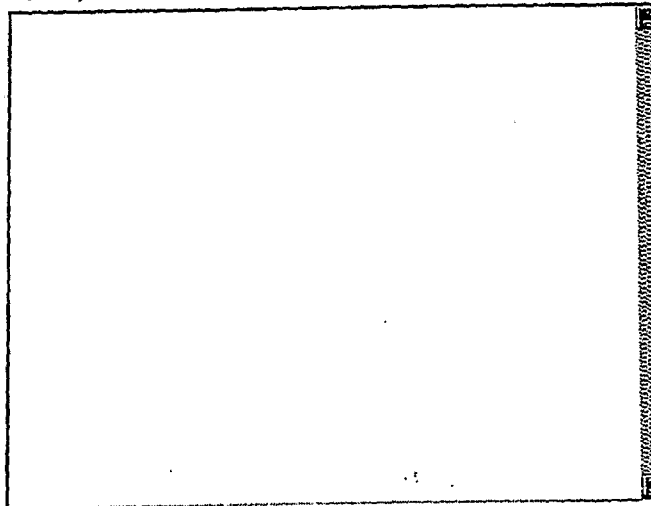
[Accept Liability](#)[Cancel](#)[Mobile](#) | [Mass Pay](#) | [Money Market](#) | [ATM/Debit Card](#) | [BillPay](#) | [Referrals](#)[About Us](#) | [Accounts](#) | [Fees](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Security Center](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Developers](#) | [Help](#)

FIG. 24

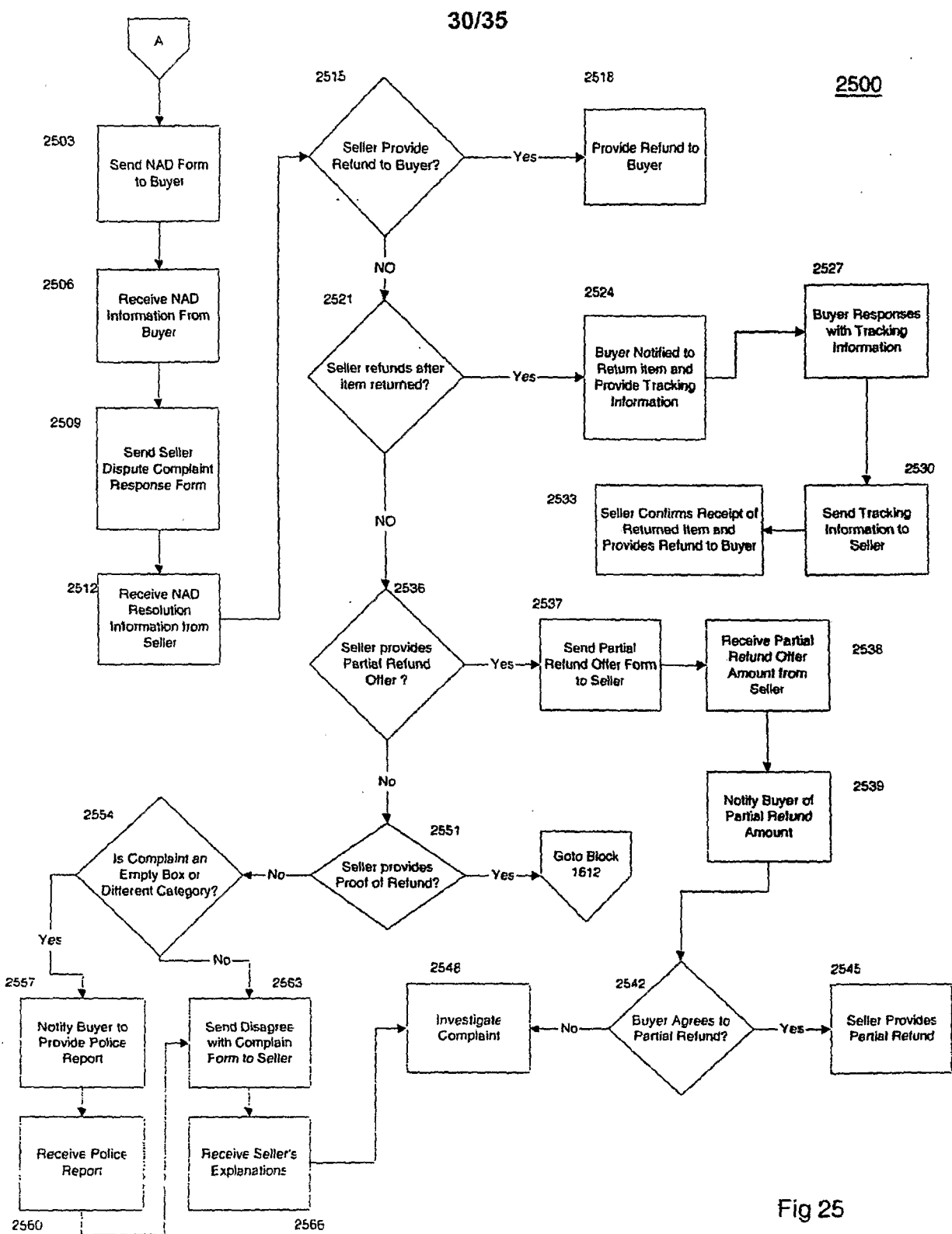


Fig 25

31/35

PayPal*

Log Out | Help

My Account

Send Money

Request Money

Merchant Tools

Auction Tools

Contact Us - Merchandise Dispute - Buyer Protection

☒ PayPal Buyer Protection [Learn more...](#)

PayPal Buyer Protection covers claims for significantly not as described items. An item is significantly not as described if the seller clearly misrepresents the item in a way that affects its value or usability. Please note that this does not include cases where you are merely disappointed with the item or where the item did not meet your expectations. For more detailed information on the definition of significantly not as described please see our [User Agreement](#).

Please provide details about the condition of your purchase.


- | | | | |
|------|--|---|------|
| 2605 | <input type="checkbox"/> Missing parts that prevent item from being used | <input type="checkbox"/> Different material | 2655 |
| | - No computer processor | - Cotton v. silk | |
| | - No motor | - Glass v. plastic | 2660 |
| 2610 | <input type="checkbox"/> Externally damaged | <input type="checkbox"/> Less Valuable Substitute | |
| | - Scratches, cracks, chips, rips, dents | - Less powerful: | |
| | - Stains, odor | - Pentium 4 v. Pentium 3 | |
| 2615 | <input type="checkbox"/> Missing Quantity | - Lower perceived quality: | |
| | - Ordered 12 units but received 6 | - Branded v. generic | 2665 |
| 2620 | <input type="checkbox"/> Internally damaged | <input type="checkbox"/> Time-sensitive item arrived late | |
| | - Doesn't power on | - Concert tickets | 2670 |
| | - Doesn't play or plays with errors | <input type="checkbox"/> Color difference: | |
| | (DVD, CD, software) | - Slight - Light green v. dark green | |
| 2625 | <input type="checkbox"/> Used when described as new | - Moderate - Green v. teal | |
| | - Original listing said it was | - Serious - Green v. red | |
| | "new" or "mint" | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruined Food/Plants | 2675 |
| 2630 | <input type="checkbox"/> Shipping Cost Issues | - Spoiled | |
| | | - Dead/wilted | |
| 2635 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sales Tax Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of original | 2680 |
| | | - Bootleg or pirated copy | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Different model, version, or size | (music, movie, software) | |
| | - Incompatible operating system | - Photocopy | 2685 |
| | (Windows v. Macintosh) | <input type="checkbox"/> Imitation | |
| | - Motorcycle engine v. automobile | - Fake Rolex, fake Gucci purse, | |
| | engine | fake Armani suit | |
| 2640 | - Shoes too small to wear | <input type="checkbox"/> Empty Box | 2690 |
| 2645 | <input type="checkbox"/> Different design/pattern | - Empty or contains unrelated material | |
| | - Floral v. striped | | |
| 2650 | <input type="checkbox"/> Different category of item entirely | | |
| | - Ordered a book, got a brick | | |

Please provide additional details (This information will be viewable by the seller).

Fig 26

32/35

[Log Out](#) | [Help](#)



[My Account](#) | [Send Money](#) | [Request Money](#) | [Merchant Tools](#) | [Auction Tools](#)
[Overview](#) | [Add Funds](#) | [Withdraw](#) | [History](#) | [Profile](#)

Resolve Complaint

2710 — ☒ Issue the buyer a full refund

2720 — ☐ Provide the buyer a full refund if the package is returned

2730 — ☐ Offer the buyer a partial refund in an attempt to close this claim

2740 — ☐ The buyer has already been refunded and I can provide proof of the previous refund.

2750 — ☐ Disagree with claim. I would like to provide additional information

PayPal Buyer Protection [Learn more...](#)

Please select the method in which you would like to resolve this claim from the options below:

PayPal will review the information and determine whether the claim can be closed.

Thank you for your cooperation.

[Continue](#) | [Cancel](#)

Mobile | Mass Pay | Money Market | ATM/Debit Card | BillPay | Referrals | About Us | Accounts | Fees | Privacy | Security Center | User Agreement | Developers | Shops

an eBay company

Copyright © 1999-2003 PayPal. All rights reserved.
[Information about FDIC pass-through insurance](#)

Fig 27

33/35

2800

PayPal [Log Out](#) | [Help](#)

[My Account](#) | [Send Money](#) | [Request Money](#) | [Merchant Tools](#) | [Auction Tools](#)
[Overview](#) | [Add Funds](#) | [Withdraw](#) | [History](#) | [Profile](#)

Partial Refund Offer

To offer a partial refund, enter the amount you are offering to the buyer below and click **Calculate** to determine the Net Refund Amount and the Fee Refunded. Click **Process Refund** to initiate the refund. [How is my fee refund calculated?](#)

The amount you enter for the partial refund will be checked against the amount the buyer requested. If the amounts match, the claim will be closed automatically. If the partial refund you offer is less than the buyer's request, or if the buyer did not specify an amount, the buyer will be asked to accept or deny your refund offer.

The buyer will have 10 days to respond to your offer. If the buyer accepts it, the claim will close automatically. If the buyer denies, PayPal will continue to investigate the complaint.

2805 — Transaction ID: D0727049RNS150131
 2810 — Name: Chitral Anderson-Lee
 2815 — Email: wchai-p@buyer1@paypal.com
 2820 — Total Amount: \$5.00 USD
 2825 — Buyer's Requested Refund: None specified
 2830 — Gross Refund Amount: \$3.00 USD [Calculate](#)
 2835 — Net Refund Amount: \$2.91 USD
 2840 — Fee Refunded: \$0.09 USD
 2845 — Source of Funds: PayPal Balance
 2850 — Note to Buyer (optional)

If you are refunded by check and the refund fails to clear, PayPal will process the refund with funds from your PayPal account.

2855 — Ship To: 5303223 Park Avenue, Paso Robles, CA 93446, United States

[Process Refund](#) [Cancel](#)

[Mobile](#) | [Mass Pay](#) | [Money Market](#) | [ATM/Debit Card](#) | [BillPay](#) | [Referrals](#) | [About Us](#) | [Accounts](#) | [Fees](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Security Center](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Developers](#) | [Site Map](#)


an eBay company

Copyright © 1999-2003 PayPal. All rights reserved.
[Information about PayPal, eBay, and other services](#)

Fig 28

34/35

[Log Out](#) | [Help](#)



[My Account](#) | [Send Money](#) | [Request Money](#) | [Merchant Tools](#) | [Auction Tools](#)

[Overview](#) | [Add Funds](#) | [Withdraw](#) | [History](#) | [Profile](#)

Disagree With Complaint

The buyer's reasons for filing this claim are listed below. Please respond to each listed reason. If necessary, PayPal will review the original listing for details.

Note: This message is at no time seen by the buyer. Your response will be viewed by the investigating agent only.

Buyer's Reasons	Seller's Explanations	
2910 — Missing parts	Camera has never been used -- it's brand new.	2930 —
2915 — Internally damaged	Buyer said it won't turn on? Battery was not included.	2935 —

[Continue](#) | [Cancel](#)

Mobile | Mass Pay | Money Market | ATM/Debit Card | Billpay | Referrals | About Us | Accounts | Fees | Privacy | Security Center | User Agreement | Developers | Shop

an eBay company

Copyright © 1999-2003 PayPal. All rights reserved.
Information about FDIC pass-through insurance

2900

Fig 29

35/35

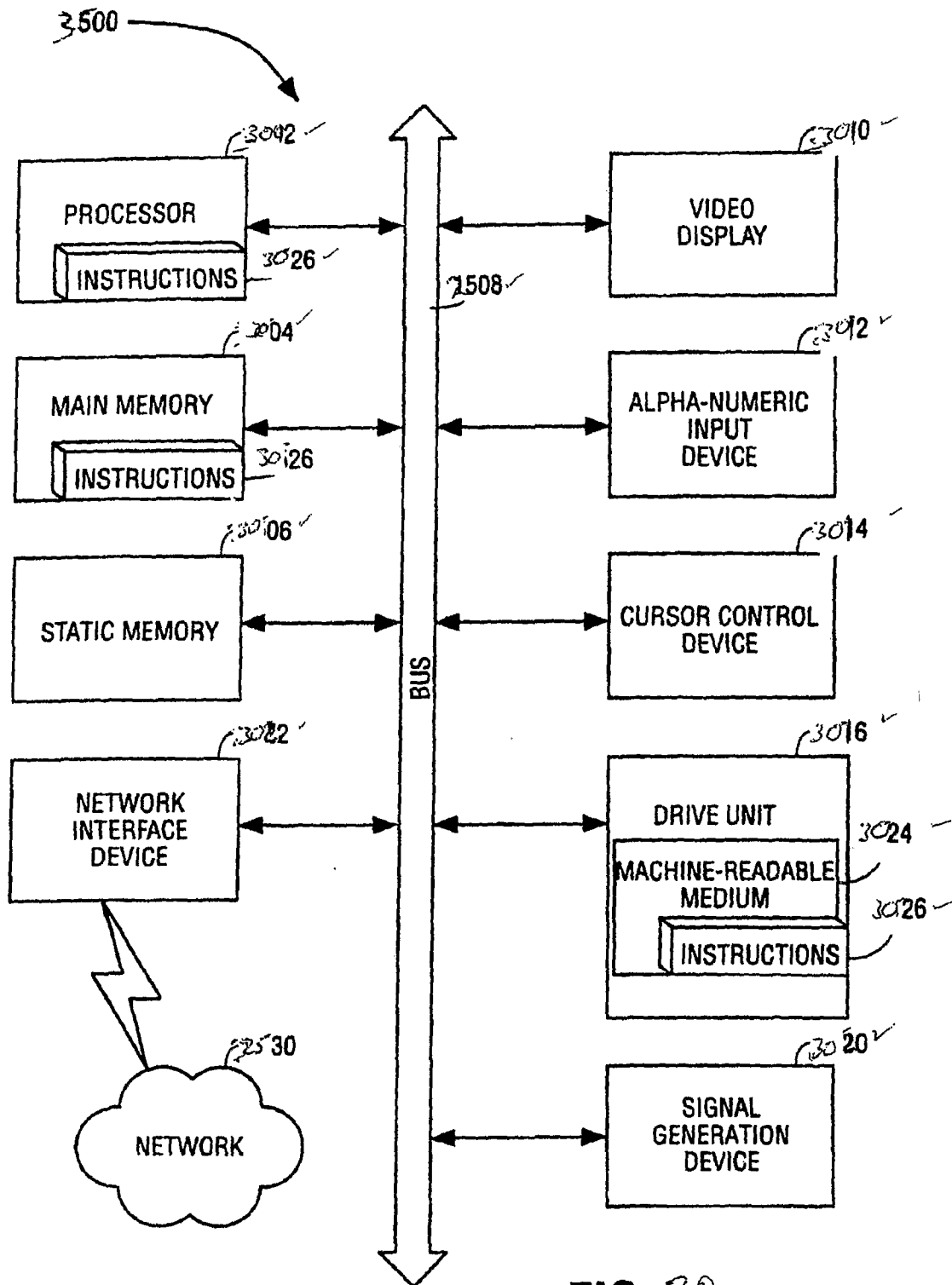


FIG. 30